Broadway writer details craft

Lauren Varga
Staff Writer

Phillip Rose decided to title his book *You Can’t Do that on Broadway*, an account of his experiences as producer of Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*, after hearing the phrase over and over as he tried to raise money.

Rose, who spoke at Rider University on Monday, Feb. 25, said that the play was written by Hansberry after she and Rose viewed a play in a church, by a black playwright, about a black family.

“Well if I was going to write about something like that,” said Hansberry, “I could write a better play.”

Rose countered that comment by telling her to try that form of writing.

“About 10 months after that she invited me over to her apartment for dinner with a few others,” said Rose. “She read us what was about half of *Raisin in the Sun*.

Rose said that he was amazed by the work she had done and called Hansberry in the middle of the night to tell her that he wanted to produce her play. A little confused, Hansberry said that they would talk in the morning. The next thing they knew phone calls were being made and money was slowly, but surely, being raised for the production, said Rose.

Money for the play did not come easily, according to Rose. “The theatre owners did not think we would get an audience,” he said. “The theatre didn’t think we would get a black audience because the black audience in the 1950s wasn’t going to the Broadway Theatre. And they didn’t think the white audience wouldn’t come if the black audience did come.”

Even though Rose was discouraged he kept on persisting. “Sometimes people wonder why we keep trying,” said Rose. “They had heard that Kermit Bloomgarden wanted to produce this play and the money began to come in. That’s how we got the play.”

Author and playwright Phillip Rose discussed his earlier works as well as his new book at his Rider appearance.

Security Briefs

Huh-huh cool

A side mirror was broken off of a female student’s car in the Open Lot by the Maurer Gym between Wednesday, Feb. 18 and Friday, Feb. 20. The student notified security who observed the damage. Lawrence Police Department (LPD) services were offered and declined. There are no suspects.

Is the food that bad?

A male student went on a vandalism spree at the Bronic Diner area on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 12:20 a.m. It was reported that the student took an order of fries without paying and was agitated when employees asked him to pay, which he later did. The student then threw various items to the floor on his way out, including a cash register, which was damaged. The student was positively identified and faces campus charges.

Something about Daly’s

A scuffle nearly broke out in Daly’s when a male and female suspect began to harass a female victim on Sunday, Feb. 22. The complainant stated that an unknown female confronted her after a student meeting and became verbally abusive. The suspect ultimately challenged her to a physical altercation outside when a male suspect also confronted the complainant and had to be held back by friends. The female suspect began to pull the victim’s hair. People intervened and the parties seperated and departed. LPD services were offered and declined. The investigation is continuing.

Cheerleading: Full Contact

A cheerleader was hit in the eye with a tennis ball thrown by someone in the Alumni Gym during a practice session on Monday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. The victim’s eye was injured and she was taken to the hospital by ambulance, treated and released.

Westminster maestro honored

By David Maccar
News Editor

Joseph Flummerfelt, a famous conductor at Westminster Choir College (WCC), will step down as artistic director and principal conductor in June. A performance of Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis on Saturday, March 27 at the Patriots Theater in the Trenton War Memorial.

The performance will celebrate the career of Flummerfelt, who has been recognized by critics and musicians as “one of the world’s greatest choral conductors,” a WCC press release stated.

Flummerfelt was recently honored by *Musical America* magazine when he was selected as Conductor of the Year. He has been a conductor for over 30 years and has collaborated with such famous conductors as Abbado, Bernstein and Steinberg.

Flummerfelt has been one of three artistic directors for the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. in Charleston, S.C. since 1977 and for 23 years he was the Maestro del coro (Master of the Chorus) for the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy. He is also the founder and conductor of The New York Choral Artists and was the music director of Singing City in Philadelphia for five years.

Tickets for the performance are $60, $50, $35 and $20 and may be purchased at the War Memorial box office by calling 609-984-8400 or on its website at www.tickets.com. Special patron packages that include a pre-concert dinner, preferred seating and a post-performance reception are available through WCC. For more information call 609-921-3200.

Senor Corzine appears at Rider

By Randy Townsend
Staff Writer

A packed house of Rider University students turned out last week to hear New Jersey Senator Jon Corzine stress the importance of their participation and involvement in current political issues.

Corzine informed students that their voice in political decision-making is underrepresented, limiting the power of their thoughts and opinions in the formation of public policies that would directly affect their future. According to Corzine, only about 37 percent of the population between the ages of 18 and 24 vote.

“Sometimes people wonder why we talk about Medicare and Social Security,” said Corzine. “The fact is 64 percent of folks 65 and older vote. If you’re going to try to win an election, you’ve got to talk to the issues where people are going to show up in the polls and make it happen.”

Corzine said that the younger generation of voters should be more actively involved because the issues currently being debated will not only impact them, but also their children as well.

Global warming, stem-cell research and privacy are all topics that politicians are at a “break-point” to make decisions about, he added.

Corzine, a former co-chairman and co-CEO of the investment company Goldman Sachs, is a leading Democratic spokesman on protecting the Social Security system. He favors extending Medicare to include a prescription drug program for all seniors.

The senator, who began his first term in 2000, illustrated the historical significance of issues currently being debated by contrasting them to the rebellious political