Political Perspective:
The forgotten war

When the average American hears the word Colombia, cocaine is usually what first comes to mind. Few of us think of the beautiful Latin American country which has been torn apart by 40 years of civil war. For almost four decades, the Colombian government has been at war with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Colombia’s largest Marxist paramilitary group, and one of the worst human rights violations in the world. The U.S. government, at its Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly The School of the Americas, has also trained some of Colombia’s worst torturers, and corrupt military leaders. Even though they continue to deny it, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and The U.S. State Department have all linked the Colombian military to far-right wing paramilitary death squads who are responsible for the deaths of thousands of civilians. Amiri Baraka, the so-called intellectual terrorist, not well, Baraka should be shunned as an intellectual terrorist, not apparently an anti-Semite as well, Baraka, apparently an anti-American, was invited by the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) to Rider, the EOP for wasting the Black Student Union for providing security, and Dean of Enrollment and Appointments (EOA) to speak. . . some opportunity! Seemingly, an anti-American, a documented anti-Israeli and apparently an anti-Semitic as well. Is it necessary, or even wise, to be a like enemies of our country, to speak for me. It is not always necessary, or even wise, to be a bleeding-heart Liberal providing for everyone’s civil rights or to not when they behave like enemies of our country, or our allies and trample on the sensitivities of others and worse, . . so under the guise of an official title (poet laureate, indeed) as is the case with Baraka. He has shown by his words that he does not deserve our respect, Rider’s forum, or the students’ money responsible for bringing him to Rider, the EOP for wasting student funds on this event, the Intercollegiate Greek Council, the Black Student Union for providing security, and Dean Anthony Campbell for lack of judgment in advising students, as well as those extermed, but misguided professors who apparently facilitated this invitation, namely Professors John Johnson in Belvedere, Gary Barlow (Rider News 11.01.02, Trenton Times 11.02.02). Some others might support the freedom of speech issue and democratic process this action represents. They certainly don’t want to speak for me. It is not always necessary, or even wise, to be a bleeding-heart Liberal providing for everyone’s civil rights or to not when they behave like enemies of our country, or our allies and trample on the sensitivities of others and worse, . . so under the guise of an official title (poet laureate, indeed) as is the case with Baraka. He has shown by his words that he does not deserve our respect, Rider’s forum, or the students’ money responsible for bringing him to Rider, the EOP for wasting student funds on this event, the Intercollegiate Greek Council, the Black Student Union for providing security, and Dean Anthony Campbell for lack of judgment in advising students, as well as those extermed, but misguided professors who apparently facilitated this invitation, namely Professors John Johnson in Belvedere, Gary Barlow (Rider News 11.01.02, Trenton Times 11.02.02). Some others might support the freedom of speech issue and democratic process this action represents. They certainly don’t want to speak for me. It is not always necessary, or even wise, to be a bleeding-heart Liberal providing for everyone’s civil rights or to not when they behave like enemies of our country, or our allies and trample on the sensitivities of others and worse, . . so under the guise of an official title (poet laureate, indeed) as is the case with Baraka. He has shown by his words that he does not deserve our respect, Rider’s forum, or the students’ money responsible for bringing him to Rider, the EOP for wasting student funds on this event, the Intercollegiate Greek Council, the Black Student Union for providing security, and Dean Anthony Campbell for lack of judgment in advising students, as well as those extermed, but misguided professors who apparently facilitated this invitation, namely Professors John Johnson in Belvedere, Gary Barlow (Rider News 11.01.02, Trenton Times 11.02.02). Some others might support the freedom of speech issue and democratic process this action represents. They certainly don’t want to speak for me. It is not always necessary, or even wise, to be a bleeding-heart Liberal providing for everyone’s civil rights or to not when they behave like enemies of our country, or our allies and trample on the sensitivities of others and worse, . . so under the guise of an official title (poet laureate, indeed) as is the case with Baraka. He has shown by his words that he does not deserve our respect, Rider’s forum, or the students’ money.

Letter To The Editor:
Baraka, intellectual terrorist

It was a sad day when Rider University announced that Amiri Baraka, the so-called “poet laureate” of New Jersey, a.k.a. Leroi Jones, formerly of the Black Panther hate group, was invited by the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) to speak. . . some opportunity! Seemingly, an anti-American, a documented anti-Israeli and apparently an anti-Semitic as well. Is it necessary, or even wise, to be a like enemies of our country, to speak for me. It is not always necessary, or even wise, to be a bleeding-heart Liberal providing for everyone’s civil rights or to not when they behave like enemies of our country, or our allies and trample on the sensitivities of others and worse, . . so under the guise of an official title (poet laureate, indeed) as is the case with Baraka. He has shown by his words that he does not deserve our respect, Rider’s forum, or the students’ money responsible for bringing him to Rider, the EOP for wasting student funds on this event, the Intercollegiate Greek Council, the Black Student Union for providing security, and Dean Anthony Campbell for lack of judgment in advising students, as well as those extermed, but misguided professors who apparently facilitated this invitation, namely Professors John Johnson in Belvedere, Gary Barlow (Rider News 11.01.02, Trenton Times 11.02.02). Some others might support the freedom of speech issue and democratic process this action represents. They certainly don’t want to speak for me. It is not always necessary, or even wise, to be a bleeding-heart Liberal providing for everyone’s civil rights or to not when they behave like enemies of our country, or our allies and trample on the sensitivities of others and worse, . . so under the guise of an official title (poet laureate, indeed) as is the case with Baraka. He has shown by his words that he does not deserve our respect, Rider’s forum, or the students’ money.

No love for Lovejoy

This is a letter in response to Steven Lovejoy’s ignorant, naive, and excruciatingly tacky “Joy of Love” column. Where to begin? First of all, Mr. Lovejoy’s disclaimer that the column is for “heterosexual men with girlfriends” is disturb- ing on a number of levels. Firstly, it implies that only heterosexual men are capable of feeling love. Are gay men and women beneath such things, Mr. Lovejoy? Can they not feel love as well? Also, that statement implies you are speaking for all heterosexual men. I can only assume that you are the world’s foremost expert on love and therefore you can speak for the experiences of all heterosexual men regarding love. Because they all must feel the exact things you do. Right, Mr. Lovejoy? What qualifies you to make such definitive claims about such an abstract emotion? Mr. Lovejoy’s sanctimo- nious, not to mention irrel- evant and pointless, column represents, for this reader, the absolute nadir of The Rider News’ history. As a former award winning columnist of “The Confessions of a Political Junkie” for The Rider News, it pains me to see such drivel sharing the same hallowed pag- es in which I once appeared. The one good thing about Mr. Lovejoy’s column is the unintentional humor it pro- vides. As a comedian, I can use some of his sap for material in the future. Sincerely, Bryan Yurcan, English, Class of 2002

R U From The Left: Should we go to war?

If we listen to what we are told in the media everyday and by President Bush and the “Republicans”, this is going to be a necessary and good war. This war must be carried out because Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. We never know when Saddam Hussein will use these weapons. Right, Mr. Lovejoy? But be afraid, be very afraid, when we take a look at the truths and hard realities of the subject we see something different. Scott Ritter is the former head of the United Nations weapons inspectors in Iraq and officer of the U.S. Marine Corps participating in combat operations during the Gulf War as well as the author of the book, “Endgame: Solving the Iraq Problem Once and for All.” He believes that, “[O]ur country is on the verge of making a historical mistake that will forever change the political dynamic which has governed the world since the end of World War II; namely, the foundation of international law as set forth in the United Nations Charter, which calls for the peaceful resolution of problems between nations. [The U.S.] government has set forth a policy of unilateral intervention that runs contrary to the letter and intent of the United Nations Charter.” This is particularly important as they do not support this trav-esty, but that might get ugly. Perhaps the best approach, and one that I would advocate, is that people stay away, simply boycott his appearance, allow- ing this Baraka-Jones misfit, to spew out his vitriol to an empty room! In our absence, we would be sending a very clear message.

Dr. Ralph Gallay Associate Professor of Marketing Rider University

Joe Rockowitz

Friday, November 8, 2002

Letter To The Editor:
The Rider News

Rider News: 2 Centennial House; 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648; Phone: (609) 896-5256; Fax: (609) 896-5696 E-Mail: ridernews@rider.edu