Hate

From page 12
Miriam Mills.
Playwrights Moises Kaufman (The Laramie Project) and Eve Ensler (The Vagina Monologues) crafted their dramas from words spoken in interviews with ordinary people.

Describing their own vaginas, speaking aloud both the hateful words used by lovers who bared and also the loving, playful, funny words that celebrate their own sexuality. All money raised by The Vagina Monologues and the related V-Day activities will be donated to Womanspace, a local facility providing shelter and education to women and children surviv-

ors of domestic violence. For Womanspace. Plan ahead so you don’t miss this spring vulvarapalooza event!

I ask you to volunteer College Campaign 2003, violence against women. Efforts by the Gender Studies Program and the Fine Arts Department, cultivating in three benefit performances of The Vagina Monologues, but it begins with a full week of events organized by students, February 21-28. Events being planned include a poetry reading, a concert, poster-making, and candy-making of chocolate pops in vagina shapes. Volunteers are needed as ushers ("Vagina Security"), as fundraisers, and as creators of fun events (call 609-896-5160). You may purchase individual tickets at $10 (call 609-896-5303) or sponsorship tickets at $100 and $50 (call 609-896-5241).

Dr. Judith L. Johnston, Director of the Gender Studies Program, Professor of English

Letter To The Editor:

Faculty views called into question

I am writing in response to the many dissenting views expressed by Rider faculty, namely those from the marketing and drama departments regarding the Distinguished Writer’s ceremony for Amiri Baraka.

First it is important to note that the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Class of 2002 has contributed over forty students to the various research into the works of the author that was pre-selected by the EOP pro-

gram. Their efforts should not go unno-

ticed. They have spent countless hours analyzing Amiri Baraka’s writing tech-

niques, exploring the numerous inter-

pretations of his literary works. Baraka’s involvement in the era of the civil rights movement through the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and research proving to be an excellent educational and historical resource. This is why he was selected! We also need to remember that Baraka was chosen for the Distinguished Writer’s series before his Sept. 11 poem paralleled with his writings prov-

ing involvement in the era of the civil rights movements of the 1960s.

As an active member of the Black Student Union (BSU), I am happy to inform the professor and the Rider com-

munity that BSU is an openly diverse organization that welcomes all. We are not a racially divided organization working to create rivalry, racial distinc-

tion nor overall community separation! Anyone is welcome to participate. It might be a good idea for that professor to stop by one of our meetings; you are more than welcome and we would love

you to have you.

Another professor from the mar-

keting department made an appalling correlation between the KKK and the Black Panther Party. Let’s examine this: the idea of biological inferiority, cold-

blooded murder justified by hatred, White Supremacy and in some cases the laws of the land, versus carrying fIRE-

arms legally, providing education and resources for the oppressed, without fail-

ing to shrink to their opposition when unjust racial limitations were forced upon them.

Amiri Baraka’s involvement in the KKK. So do not point the finger at Baraka for not researching his information and did not do his research? Then to you I say, you are the ones who are truly guilty, because if you did your research you would know that there is no comparison between Baraka and a white supremacy group nor is there a compar-

ison between the Black Panthers to the KKK. So do not point the finger at Baraka for not researching his information, when it is obvious that you did not do your own. However, no one stopped

you from voicing your opinion, nor did they try to strip you of your title.

Overall, we must be able to face the demons of our past without creating new demons. We can identify leaders from almost any racial or cultural group that have expressed views that may cause contrasting arguments from other groups. However, this is a higher insti-

tution of learning; we should be able to look beyond the surface and explore differences of all these ideals. Baraka’s talent as a writer is not the issue, but just to state the facts, Baraka was not appointed the state’s Poet Laureate for nothing. But, besides that, Baraka has a story to tell, one that can educate, inspire or encourage any man or wom-

an. Give us all the opportunity to hear his words. Don’t create a barrier that we have barely broken.

Rashid Long
EOP Student
BSU member

A Citizen’s Voice:

The backdrop of war

With the possibility of war with Iraq casting its dark shadow over the nation, and the ongoing war of terror that the U.S. seems to be fighting everywhere dominating the news and our minds, it is easy to overlook events that are unfolding right in front of us.

The war and the Iraq question are certainly important, but they are both happening in foreign lands. There is a new threat that has risen up right here, in America, under our very noses.

Election time this year was fraught with the prospect of many seats, of scandals, commercials, mudslinging and a mas-

sive amount of money being thrown around for campaigning by both par-

ties.

The methods were fairly typical for current day politics in America. The results, however, were not. Once the incumbents serve out their terms and the new politicians are sworn into office, the Republican party will have the majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as a Republican president in the White House. In short, the Republican party will dominate our government, at least for the next two years or so.

The current Congress has been unable to carry out many plans, due to the split in the houses. There has been a kind of legislative gridlock, with neither party able to achieve dominance within the government. So at least the new demographics of Congress may change that. The Democrats still have the numbers to block Bush’s agenda, as they have been doing, but the sheer amount of Republicans may be able to push some legislation through.

In a campaign in which there was no central issue, except perhaps patriotism driven by the Sept. 11 attacks, President Bush was able to say that other first-term presidents in a mid-
term elections were subject to. Such presidents in the past nearly always have seen their party lose congressional strength two years after their own elec-

tions. In the past century, the party of a first-term president averaged a loss of about 35 House seats, and, since the end of World War II, it has dropped an average of 25 House seats and four in the Senate. Only twice in the past cen-

tury has such a party gained seats. The party of one of the three presidents in history that have had their parties dominate in both houses.

In Bush’s case, however, the facts may be a bit misleading. It may seem as though there was an outpouring of support for the Republican party, which, to some degree, there was; however, it must be remembered that the reappraisal of seats added to states or areas that have been traditionally Republican. So although the Republican party won an astounding victory, some of the new seats were relatively assured to them due to demographics.

The prospect of the dominance of one party seems very ominous. Isn’t the whole point of a two-party system and our system of checks and balances to keep one person or group from hav-

ing too much power? The fact that one party seems to have control in both the legislative and the executive branch is just plain threatening. As the President appoints justices who are then con-

firmed by Congress, it is probably safe to say that there will be an influx of Republicans to the judicial branch as well.

As daunting as the prospect of a Republican majority government is, one has to remember that it was the choice of the people. Either more people voted Republican or fewer Democrats and less Republicans came out to vote. Either way, the citizens of America determined who their elected officials would be, and we must deal with that choice, one way or another, for the next two years.

Finally, the amount of people who did not vote are great enough in number to defeat the wishes of those who did vote.

We have a dominance in our gov-

ernment now because, at least in part, people didn’t vote. Are the elected officials truly representative of America, or just those who actually went out and participated in their government? It is another freedom of Americans that they have the choice to go out and vote, or not. Just remember that if you do not stand up and make a decision, it will be made for you.

Laura Sass
Democrats

The Vagina Monologues was publicly presented.

Writer's series before his Sept. 11 poem was pre-selected by the EOP program. Their efforts should not go unnoticed. They have spent countless hours analyzing Amiri Baraka’s writing techniques, exploring the numerous interpretations of his literary works. Baraka’s involvement in the era of the civil rights movement through the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and research proving to be an excellent educational and historical resource. This is why he was selected! We also need to remember that Baraka was chosen for the Distinguished Writer’s series before his Sept. 11 poem paralleled with his writings providing involvement in the era of the civil rights movements of the 1960s.

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