Baraka appearance causing issues

By Laura Sass
Executive Editor

A very large and very diverse group of faculty, students and staff met on Wednesday, Dec. 4, in Daly’s Board room, to discuss the problems that the upcoming appearance of Amiri Baraka, the poet laureate of New Jersey, has brought to Rider’s campus.

“The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the issue and to understand each other,” said Kerry Greenstein, a member of Hillel and one of the organizers of the meeting. “It is to say not whether you are for or against Baraka, but to communicate how you feel about the issue. Our goal is that, come Saturday morning, after Baraka leaves, we are still a united campus.”

Jan Friedmann-Krupnick, Assistant Vice president of Student Affairs and advisor of Hillel, agreed.

“It’s an opportunity to come together and say what we stand for,” she said.

The meeting was spearheaded by the presidents of the Black Student Union (BSU) and of Hillel. The organizations that were specifically invited were BSU, Hillel, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students, and the Interstudent Council (IGC), but the forum was open to everybody. Many students, faculty members and staff members attended, filling every seat in the room.

Friedmann-Krupnick opened the meeting with an explanation of how the idea to meet and discuss the issue evolved.

“Hillel was having a Hanukkah party and Baraka’s name came up,” she explained. “I thought the question was: are you for Baraka or are you Jewish? We thought that there should be a time that we could all sit and talk about it, not necessarily to come to any agreement, but to come together."

A volley between the pro-Baraka and anti-Baraka views followed, in which he was called everything from a hate-monger to an excellent poet.

“You have to understand that he is a poet,” said one student. “When you talk about the way he lies, it’s like saying not to read Shakespeare because he is not true to certain facts in his work.”

Dr. Howard Schwartz, the chairperson of the communication department, heartily disagreed.

“There is a difference between poetic license and deliberately misrepresenting facts,” said Schwartz. “We are protesting against what we feel are his misrepresentations, and we are protesting against hate.”

The group finally came to the consensus that they would read the Rider University Statement of Community Values before Baraka’s presentation in order to remind everybody that Rider is a united campus.

Dean of Students Anthony Campbell agreed.

“There are people who don’t see him as anti-semitic and those who do. So we have to agree to disagree on this issue,” she said. “You acknowledge that we have the right to feel the way we do, and the right to protest, and we acknowledge that you have the right to hear what Baraka has to say.”

Friedmann-Krupnick agreed, and offered some suggestions on how to come to an understanding.

“Never look for an opportunity to react. The way that it was done in the past didn’t help,” she said. “Hillel should have been more proactive about the issues. Security noticed a car, making their rounds early Monday morning, Dec. 2, security noticed a car, containing no decals, parked on the lawn adjacent to the Memorial Hall parking lot. While ticketing the vehicle, security was approached by the female owner, who denied being a student and gave no reason for parking on the lawn.

After entering her car, she drove backwards across the lawn onto Faculty Drive, exiting the area.

Security was able to identify the female based on her passenger’s seatbelt. She was charged with disorderly conduct and was issued a letter of Person Non Grata.

Another Beating

Security was dispatched to Switlik Residence Hall Thursday, Nov. 21 around 4 p.m. for a report of physical abuse to a student.

While walking back from class with two other individuals, the male student was nearly run over by the male suspect’s car. Proceeding past Ge Residence Hall, the car stopped and out came the male visitor suspect bent on verbally harassing the student victim.

A female passenger then restrained the suspect, but that didn’t stop the suspect from meeting the victim on the outside Switlik to deliver a blow, that sent the male victim to the ground.

The male victim received a cut on his face and a bloody nose that was treated at the Student Health Center. The investigation is still continuing.

Reminder from Security:

Security would like to remind all students to take their valuables home with them over the holiday break.

By Priscilla Bryson
Staff Writer

Serving the best interests of each of Rider’s organizations is the goal of the Student Government Association’s (SGA) new and improved budget. The budget works with all the student groups on Rider’s campus to ensure that every organization has the amount of finances it needs to bring activities to Rider.

The group finally came to the conclusion that they will need to re-examine organization funding methods. While funding is using the money efficiently.

The work that was put into the budget by the SGA is not yet complete, but it has formulated a rough estimate for distributing funds to each organization. The estimates, voted on by the members of the SGA, have been given to Eric Wright, the treasurer. These estimates await further breakdown into the amount of funding distributed to each individual group. The final voting will continue until all the budgets have been agreed upon.

The groups have been categorized as follows: Special interest groups will be receiving about $15,650. All religious groups will be receiving about $12,100. Ethnic groups will receive $25,500. Athletics and counseling will receive $113,810. Student organizations such as the SGA itself, the Residence Hall Association and others will receive $820,300. FCC will receive $225,000. Non-vanity organizations will receive $330,100. The last category is sponsored funding, earmarked for any organization that needs extra money.

In order to receive spontaneous funding, a group must fill out a form explaining its use of the money and will be voted by a yes or no vote.

The employees of the month for October:

Jan Freidman-Krupnick - RHA Daly’s Employee of the Month
Pedro Urias(Aramark elected) - Daly’s Back of the House Employee of the Month
Tina Hebb - ACS and Aramark’s Employee of the Month for the Snack Bar and Java City

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Security Briefs

All information provided by Vickie Weaver, director of Safety and Security

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By Laura Sass
Executive Editor

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