Editorial: Sexual chocolate

This past week at Rider a rather controversial troupe has invaded the campus with force. The Vagina Monologues has appeared on every bulletin board across the campus and has occupied a large showcase in the lobby of the Fine Arts building. The play is a compilation of various monologues about many different aspects of female empowerment and, some would say, feminism, performed on stage by women.

The play is, by its nature, controversial because of its language and subject matter. Some colleges and universities, mostly Catholic or religious oriented schools, won’t allow it to be performed on their campuses. Rider, however, has made it available to its student body.

This speaks highly of Rider’s faith in the student body to decide on the controversial nature of the play for themselves. There are many other acts of baggage, it seems, that come along with The Vagina Monologues, the most glaring of which may be the Vagina Lollipop party that was held in the B lounge of Nazlet.

Many students may have just read the flyers posted around campus about the chocolate celebration of the female anatomy and thought nothing of it. Others may have questioned what exactly did candy replicas of vaginas have to do with a play that is supposed to be a celebration of womanhood and a voice against violence against women.

The whole idea of holding a gathering with the sole purpose of making, what some might classify as X-rated treats, raises all kinds of queries such as, what would happen if someone decided to hold a penis pop party? There would most likely be a massive campus backlash. Women would picket and chant things. Strange that nothing happened when people were gleefully pouring liquid chocolate into vagina molds.

It is indicative of the double standard held in today’s society between genders. In the past, men could get away with all kinds of chauvinistic, masculine things without getting any flak for it. Now men are readily chastised as being chauvinistic pigs for doing blatantly masculine things whereas women can engage in distinctly feminine activities without any protest.

Reasons for this difference are somewhat ambiguous. It is partly due to the fact that many feel that women have been getting the short end of the stick for so long that they have the right to get back at men for all the years of gender discrimination. Also, men aren’t as likely to be offended about women engaging in feminine activities as women are to be offended by men doing masculine things.

Would the vagina lollipop endeavor have been received differently if men hosted the activity rather than women? It most likely would have been. Men are also less likely to celebrate their masculinity in such a direct way. Men have tests of strength and of who can drink the most whereas women make candy versions of their sexual organs.

The fact that women are able to engage in activities like this may be a good sign that the genders are, in fact, becoming equalized in society. On the other hand, it may indicate that gender discrimination has simply taken on quieter, less obvious forms, where women aren’t the only victims.

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This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion editor.

Letters to the Editor: The Rider News welcomes letters on all subjects of interest to the campus community. Letters must be typed and include the name, address, phone number and signature of the author for verification. Send to The Rider News via e-mail (ridernews@rider.edu), campus mail, or hand deliver to Centennial board and is written by the Opinion editor.

Quote Of The Week:

“When one loves somebody everything is clear—where to go, what to do—it all takes care of itself and one doesn’t have to ask anybody about anything.”

—Maxim Gorky