He made his way from a poor, broken-down neighborhood in Pittsburgh to one of the most prestigious writing schools in the world, landed his face on the cover of Time Magazine, wrote widely read novels and short stories and was one of the first in the nation to create a program of study on African-American literature. This is the abridged tale of author John Edgar Wideman, a master of race, politics, American culture and contemporary philosophy.

This evening at 7 p.m., Wideman will sit before students and community members in the Bart Luedecke Center Theater to read from some of his works, sign books and answer questions.

The event is part of this year’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Dr. John Hulsman Dr. Gary Barricklow of the English department work with the EOP students and selected Wideman as the program’s featured writer. According to Hulsman, the author, who’s credits include a collection of stories called The Homeward Neighbors and the memoir Fatherland, will visit the University to take part in a closed seminar for EOP students, followed by a public reading of his works, which will be open to anyone interested in attending.

“He is more than just a writer. He’s a critic and a public intellectual,” said Hulsman. “He is what’s known as a memoirist,” said Hulsman. “He is an interesting life, which, according to Hulsman, has become the core of many of his pieces. “He writes about tragedy in his family,” he said. “His brother ended up with a life sentenced as an accomplice to murder and Wideman has made his life into an allegory—how out of the same family should be such opportunity and such calamity?”

Students in the Baccalaureate Honors Program as well as English students have likely encountered Wideman’s writing during the semester. Those who have yet to read any of his stories are still encouraged to do so.

“Even if you haven’t read anything by Wideman, there is great value in hearing a very fine writer read his work,” he said. “It’s really not the same as having your teacher up there reading while you’re sitting and reading along in your book.

After he reads, people should feel free to ask Wideman any questions they want, said Hulsman.

“Nothing seems to daunt him,” he said. “He’s very interested in big questions about time, identity and destiny. He’s interested in philosophical questions—the biggest questions that can be asked.”

Freshman Josephine Hillird is an EOP student who began studying Wideman over the summer. “He really challenges his readers. He doesn’t make anything easy,” she said. “He’s not a conventional writer. He makes you think.”

During the EOP seminar, selected students will present the writer with essays they have written about him and his stories. One of the students is freshman Travis Fauntleroy, who said he can relate to Wideman on the issue of race.

“I appreciate how he is an African-American expert. All of his stories involve race and it’s amazing how he can evolve that one theme throughout all of his stories,” he said. “I feel honored that I was chosen to read my essay in front of him and get a chance to see what he thinks of my writing.”

Internet TV ‘mania’ hits Rider

By Nicole Southern

Finally the future is here. For the first time ever, television is broadcast over the Internet. What can be compared to MTV in its music video playing, days can now be seen from any computer that has the ability to go online.

The new Internet television station that makes it all possible is ManiaTV! The station is geared toward college students and is slowly beginning to make a name for itself in colleges and universities across the nation.

“It launched September 5, 2004 out of Denver,” said sophomore Casey Jost, a student promoter of the network. “It’s very young, it’s very fun, [and] it’s live programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As word spreads of the newest reason to love your computer, more and more people are tuning in to ManiaTV! “Seventy percent [of the audience] is music videos,” said Jost. “The rest of it is mostly animated short films, even student made films.”

Jost is the designated Campus Mania for Rider’s campus. He became involved with ManiaTV after hearing about it from a friend at Binghamton University who is also a Campus Maniac.

“I put up fliers and things like that,” Jost said. “I just spread the word around.”

The station plays mainly music videos, but also includes animation cartoons and other short skits submitted mostly by college students, said Jost.

“They’re going for a college-based niche,” he said.

Those who wish to have their material aired on the station can do so by contacting the company via their website.

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