

CONFLICT

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plans to meet again.

About 20 people attended the event, which was scheduled months before the weekend protests.

Forum participants debated racism, sexuality, weight, definitions of feminism, age and inclusivity in the production, as well as the future of "The Vagina Monologues" at the University.

"I'm so sorry," assistant director Natalie Mays said as tears ran down her cheeks. "I feel so guilty for not representing people and all the women. That's all I wanted to do is create a safe space for women."

Mays later defended her decisions, saying that she was proud of the show and her work, and added that she did her best to be inclusive given constraints on the production.

She said she and show director Katie McClatchey — who did not attend the forum — cast based on a pool of about 85 women who tried out for the production.

Forum participants said the play's producers could have done more outreach to get more types of women to try out. They also suggested that in the future, organizers could have more kinds of women involved in producing the play, along with more communitywide discussions about concerns regarding the play. They also suggested that a forum be held after each night's show to immediately address issues about the production.

The show's producer, Guru Simrat Khalsa, suggested what she called a "V-Board," which would represent a diversity of women and address concerns raised in the forum before work begins on next year's production.

She said she felt good that people came and gave feedback. "The Vagina Monologues" often brings up issues that are really close to people," she said. "It brings up a lot of loaded subjects."

Senior Sarah Blustein, who attended the forum and also protested the production during the weekend, said she tried out for the play and was called back but decided not to participate. She and others at the forum said they felt that the play's environment was not welcoming to all types of women. Blustein identified herself as a queer Jewish feminist.

"('The Vagina Monologues') is one of the few ways that we as a society look at women and talk about sexuality, but in this particular case we weren't looking at what we hear when we say 'women,'" she said.

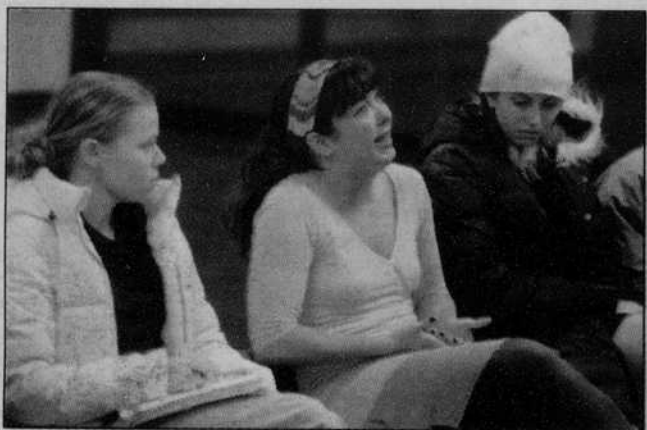
She said she was upset that women of color, overweight women and gay women were underrepresented in the play or not represented at all.

Blustein said she felt like the forum addressed some of the demonstrators' concerns, but more dialogue about women's issues in the play is needed.

Senior Lezlie Frye said the issues in the show need to be understood within the context of greater societal problems surrounding sexuality, gender and racism.

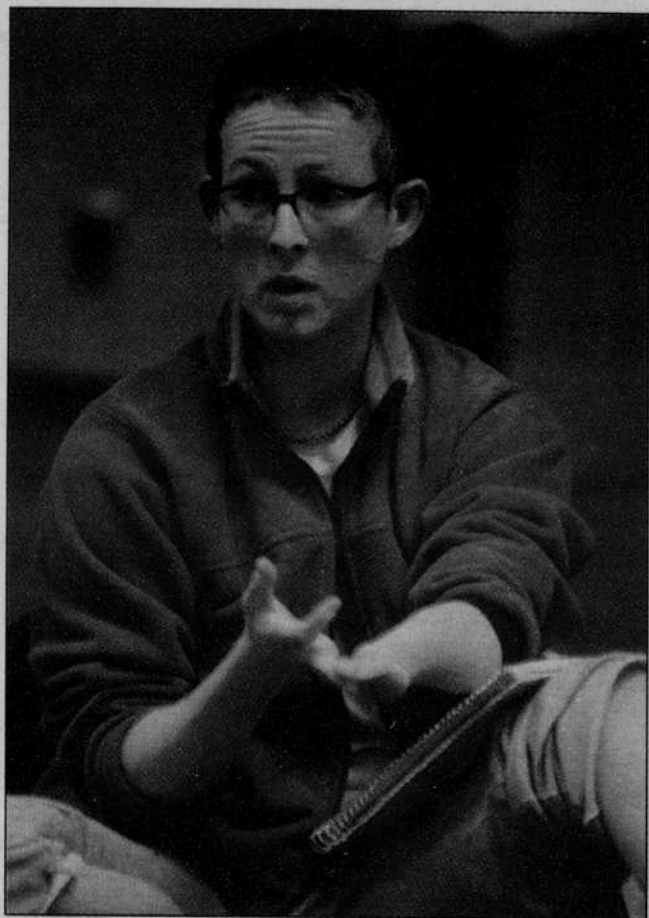
"Nobody here is a bad person," she said. "Nobody here failed at the show. We failed as a community."

Contact the city/state politics reporter at nikacarlson@dailyemerald.com.



LEFT: "The Vagina Monologues" assistant director Natalie Mays (center) expresses her sadness as she apologizes to the women who felt unrepresented. Producer Guru Simrat Khalsa (left) and cast member Judith Friedman (right) watch Mays' apology.

RIGHT: Women's and gender studies major Lezlie Frye was a demonstrator at the weekend "The Vagina Monologues" protest. Frye also opened the nightly productions with an original poem, "An Argument for Cunt Revolution."



Lauren Wimer Photographer

VETO

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that into account," Andries said.

ASUO Finance Coordinator Mike Martell said the Executive did not contact the Emerald about the veto because it did not think the group's presence was necessary unless a new hearing was called to discuss the budget further.

The Executive's veto also appeared to irk PFC Chairman Adrian Gilmore, who said he didn't understand why the Executive's position on the Emerald's budget was so "adversarial." He added that even though the right to veto is at the discretion of the Executive, he felt it was inappropriate for it

to specifically target the Emerald's budget considering PFC opted to deviate from the Executive recommendation on a number of student-group budgets. PFC's allocation for the Emerald was \$14,004 more than the Executive recommendation.

"The (ASUO Executive) does not tell us what to do," Gilmore said.

But Morales said the veto was necessary and that PFC could best serve students by incorporating the Emerald readership survey into the budget-allocation formula.

"I think it provides more than enough information for you to make a funding decision," Morales said.

Gilmore said PFC acted responsibly by not incorporating the readership survey, and he appeared

irritated by the Executive's continuing opposition to the committee's decision. When Morales asked him to explain the funding formula again, Gilmore slowly and deliberately recited the numbers with a hint of exasperation in his voice.

PFC member Toby Piering said he didn't like the Emerald's allocation, but the committee needed to uphold its decision.

"All seven of us were there when we voted on the Emerald, and I think our decision as a committee needs to stand," Piering said.

ASUO President Maddy Melton, the only individual who has power to veto a budget allocation, was not present at the meeting. Melton was scheduled to appear before the ASUO

Constitution Court at 6:30 p.m.

The veto, which was issued by Morales and Martell, was ultimately overridden by the needed two-thirds PFC majority.

After confirming the Emerald's budget, the committee approved its overall allocation of student-incident-fee funds for 2004-05 at \$4,889,672, a 1.2 percent increase, and \$107,141 under benchmark.

"This has definitely been a very trying process and I think the committee did a very good job," Gilmore said.

PFC will present its budget to the ASUO Student Senate on Feb. 25 for approval.

Contact the news editor at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

CAMPUS BUZZ

Tuesday

Human Resources Workshop entitled "Leadership in Student Supervision," EMU Walnut Room, 9 a.m.-noon, pre-registration required.

Officers of Administration Annual Meeting, Knight Library Browsing Room, 10 a.m.-noon, refreshments provided.

CSWS Lecture entitled "Globalization and International Migration: The Case of Central American Immigrants in Los Angeles," EMU Fir Room, 3-4:30 p.m.

Community Conversations, Dunn Hall Lounge, Hamilton Complex, 7:30 p.m.

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