

# Wilson

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hope that August Wilson, who claims to represent African-American culture in the theater world, would bring the African-American community into the dialogue. So far, he hasn't.

If Wilson is serious about creating a viable, new black theater, why isn't he talking to us? Why was his debate with Brustein held at a Times Square theater instead of the Apollo in Harlem? Black "nationalists" and "separatists" who speak (and present their plays) to whites have, in my opinion, little credibility as leaders, cultural or otherwise. I urge Mr. Wilson, who is one of America's greatest playwrights, to speak to African-American people. I would be very happy to provide Wilson with opportunities to present his position to and have a dialogue with the black community.

Cultural nationalism is a legitimate — although in my opinion, misguided and ultimately hypocritical — response to the racism of American society. While I disagree with Wilson's separatism (especially a separatism funded by white-dominated institutions), I think that it's important that the black community be a place to dialogue in an informed and intelligent way on all the cultural and political options open to us.

## Matters

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and professional-development programs — will cost just under \$5 billion annually. That's a chunk of money — but still less than one percent of the money we taxpayers spent to bail out the federal savings and loan industry in the 1980s. On the scale of both social justice and pragmatism, our recommendations for saving America's future is well worth the cost.

Bearing it will enable us to be, as the President urged, "the shapers of events, not observers. For if we do not act, the moment will pass, and we will lose the best possibilities of our future."

What matters most of all is that we have the will to do what must be done and to properly shape the destiny of our children — and our nation.



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