Black History Month Thrives at IIT

By Kalaida Holmes
i-TECH editor

Seven years ago, after the creation of Negro History Week, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Black Student Union (BSU) spent the month educating students and staff, and permitted the history of Negro History Week. Today, however, the week has been changed to Negro History Month.

IIT has been alive to the importance of black history, especially since the new administration took over last year. The BSU and NSBE have taken the lead in organizing events that educate the campus about black history.

This year, the BSU and NSBE have collaborated to bring back Soul Food Week. The event was created to give black students a chance to eat soul food. Soul Food Week was first held in 1991, and since then, it has become an annual event.


Soul Food Week was kicked off with an opening ceremony held in the Union Ballroom on February 2nd. The event was attended by the BSU and NSBE members, as well as many other students and faculty.

The opening ceremony was followed by a Soul Food Dinner, which was catered by C&C Catering. The dinner included a variety of soul food dishes, such as Red Beans & Rice, Beef Patties, and Jambalaya.

Throughout the week, the BSU and NSBE collaborated to bring in guest speakers and events to educate the campus about black history. The guest speaker for the afternoon was Timuel Black, a worker and grassroots organizer with a strong history of fighting for racial equality. Timuel Black was raised in Chicago, and earned an undergraduate degree in History from the University of Illinois and a graduate degree in History from the University of Chicago.

Timuel Black has been active in the movement for civil rights, and has worked with many organizations to bring attention to the issues of racial inequality. He is the author of Bridges of Memory: Chicago’s First Wave of Black Migration, an oral history that follows three generations of African-Americans growing up in Chicago.

Following an opening rendition of the “Black National Anthem,” “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” by BSU’s architecture student, Travis Newsome, Mr. Black continued to uplift the crowd with enthusiastic firsthand recounts of the rich African-American history and culture that surrounded IIT and Bronzeville community and how Bronzeville influenced Chicago. Mr. Black also gave listeners something to think about when he recounted how the makeup of Chicago changed as blacks were pushed into the “black belt” of Chicago and unscrupulous black areas became slums and ghettos.

Mr. Black’s speech invited the IIT community to embrace their history and be proud of it. He encouraged the students to learn more about their heritage and to pass it on to future generations.

The week ended with Soul Food Friday, which was held in the Union Ballroom. The event was attended by many students and faculty, who enjoyed the soul food dishes and the company of their peers.

Soul Food Week was a success, and the BSU and NSBE are already planning for next year’s event. They hope to bring in more guest speakers and events, and to continue the tradition of educating the campus about black history.

Black History Month has reached its halfway mark, and the celebration of African-American culture and history is still going strong. The BSU and NSBE are planning many more events for the second half of the month, and they encourage all students to participate.

The BSU and NSBE are proud of the progress that has been made in educating the campus about black history, and they look forward to continued success in the future.
There once was a time when doing something wrong meant you were punished. The only debate was in how, not if, you should be reprimanded. The only debate is how long it takes for the lesson to be learned.

The public view proceedings to ensure fairness is applied to all cases. If one right was taken away, the accused never have to prove not guilty, because he/she committed the crime, but that he/she committed it somehow but should not be punished for the consequences. I don't care if the judge forgot to cross that one "i" or signed that one line where he should have initialized. If the evidence is there, it should not matter how or why the prosecution did to make its case. The idea that I could have a two tons of some illegal substance hidden on my property, but I'm not responsible for it because the police forgot to ask nicely or didn't wait for a search warrant is ridicu-

Legal technicalities don't trump moral or legal transgressions. But again, I like the regula-

When possible, writers will be contacted concerning any revisions made to their articles. This is only a courtesy, and writers of unsolicited material may receive any revisions made to their articles. This is only a courtesy, and writers of unsolicited material may receive any revisions made to their articles. This is only a courtesy, and writers of unsolicited material may receive any revisions made to their articles. This is only a courtesy, and writers of unsolicited material may receive any revisions made to their articles. This is only a courtesy, and writers of unsolicited material may receive any revisions made to their articles.
San Francisco Marries Politics and Civil Disobedience

The mayor of San Francisco, Gavin Newsom, announced that marriage licenses are now available to same-sex couples. This move is seen as a symbol of progress and is likely to cause controversy. The decision was made after months of public discussion and debate, and it is expected to have a significant impact on the local and national political landscape.

AEPi Loses a Moral Compass

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Bryan J. Field, and I am a senior from IIT. I have been a member of AEPi Lambda Chapter at IIT for the past three years. I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent events at IIT that have resulted in the suspension of AEPi Lambda Chapter and the potential loss of our charter. This decision was made by the administration in response to alleged incidents of hazing and non-compliance with IIT’s policies.

I write to you today to express my strong disapproval of this action. I believe that the administration’s decision is not only inappropriate but also unwarranted. I do not believe that the events in question constitute hazing as defined by IIT’s policy, and I do not think that the charges made against our chapter are supported by evidence.

I am a senior member of AEPi Lambda Chapter, and I have been involved in the chapter’s activities since my first year at IIT. I have participated in various events and initiatives, including philanthropic efforts, volunteer work, and community service projects. I have also served as a chapter officer and have held various positions within the chapter.

I am writing to urge the administration to reconsider its decision and to work towards a solution that is fair and just for all parties involved. I believe that AEPi Lambda Chapter can continue to be a positive and constructive presence on the IIT campus, and I hope that the administration will take into account the recommendations made by the IIT Honor Board.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Bryan J. Field
Art In Review
Appreciation from a third perspective

By Dominic Garascia
ARTS EDITOR

At the opening of Lee Bontecou the other night I was disturbed. Looking at some of the images, sculptures of fish consuming other fish, amorphous wall hangings that seemed to envelop the room, porcelain “creatures” reminiscent of jelly fish, aliens, or bizarre bugs - I could only feel concerned. It was a feeling of awe—somehow I was simultaneously struck with wonderment and a certain sense of distress. Bontecou certainly accomplished a gut reaction. The group with me all shared a similar feeling. It was a similar sensation to dissecting a frog. Amazed at the wonders of nature, the innate beauty of complex system, but at the same time the formaldehyde made you want to vomit. A dead frog on the desk had to disturb its dissection, at least a little.

To be honest though, that is what I like most about Bontecou. She made beautiful sculptures. Staring into one of her creations, I thought I was going to be eaten by an omnivorous set of metal machined teeth. The sculpture looked like a topographical map. It had a mountainous feature with a gap hole. In the hole was darkness. And in the darkness was a set of metal teeth, not unlike a machine version of a shark’s mouth. And to think that a tiny, and oh so arty, woman conjured up such images. It was great. The images caused you to fear. The sculpture seemed to eat you.

Bontecou’s ability to conjure feelings in such a wide spectrum of viewers speaks to her ability as an artist. Her work becomes permanent, gains real value, because of its evocative nature. This is not feel good art. Her society is too full of feel good art. Do not get me wrong, I enjoy happy imagery, and images of a better life, but to surround oneself with such campy banality appears so artificial and contrived, even out of touch with reality.

On the other hand, who am I to judge one’s taste; on the other, is that not what this article is about? The world is full of this feel good art. Marketers, image-makers, designers, and the like create these “happy worlds” every day to gain access to our world. To get us to part with our dollar, to sway our opinions, or even to gain access into our life advertisers, de-signers, politicians, virtually everyone, employs some sort of image of a better world. And maybe these images are not all bad. But when the only thing one is exposed to is the happy tune of a car commercial, or the smooth curves of a fast car, or the clean lines of anything sleek cause us to forget. We tend to become wrapped up in the fantasy world.

“We lose touch with our feelings. We numb ourselves. Bontecou and so many others shock us back to reality.”

This is not feel good art.

Bontecou’s work becomes permanent, gains real value, because of its evocative nature.

Artists of a feather: Bontecou’s work (above right) evokes a strong reaction. Like Dali (above left) and Klee (below) the work makes invokes the feelings of the viewer - all while pushing the artistic envelope.
Bontecou, A Retrospective

By Chris Berenfeld

Lee Bontecou, A Retrospective, opened at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago on Friday, February 13 with a large reception. Her work has not been seen by the public since the MCA’s 1972 show. Bontecou was born in 1931 in Providence, Rhode Island, and raised in Winchester County, New York. After studying art in both New York at the Art Student’s League and Rome, she began creating what would become her signature work in 1959. Bontecou started with the premise of a painting—a rectangle of canvas on the wall, but then she created welded geometric frames that are attached to the rectangular frame, and the canvas is then stretched over the forms created by the metal framework. These large forms that jut out of the wall are arranged so they create large deep voids in the wall-hanging sculptures that she then lines with a black fabric creating a deep abyss that recedes far into the wall. The total experience of the expressively geometric positive space contrasted with the emptiness of the voids creates an experience that is both surreal and sublime, a truly unique style of art. The emotions created by her works are spread across the entire spectrum of human feeling, in an attempt to create work that reflects the entire natural world and the relationship of humans to nature and to each other. By holding the good up with the bad, “To glimpse some of the truth, hope, ugliness, beauty, and mystery that exists in all of us and which hangs over all of the young people today.”

The retrospective is arranged chronologically around the galleries starting with her earliest work, welded framework boxes covered with different fabrics and meshes, which anticipates her later trade-mark work in the next gallery. In the 1970s, Bontecou started to experiment with vacuum-formed plastic origami in the shapes of flowers, plants and fish. These plastic works—especially the fish, which there are 3 of on display, sort of hanging and swimming through the space of the gallery have an immediate pop-cartoon aspect, but again become more naturalistically similar when one discovers that they are all swelling smaller fish. The plants are also interesting because of the striking resemblance between her work and the work of the current superstar artist Mathew Barney, whose “Cremaster Cycle” recently presented at the Guggenheim in New York uses a very similar style in creating natural forms.

In the mid-1970s, Bontecou broke away from the art world and stopped displaying her work; however, she continued creating art in her home and studio in central Pennsylvania. Her latest work, which has never before been publicly exhibited, is a series of large suspended objects, is breathtaking and really almost steals the entire show. This highly original body of hanging sculptures is unbelievable in complexity and the changes in scale; however, they still maintain a unity that can often be lost in complex works. Her other late works include porcelain sculptures that explore the forms of birds in terms of the beautiful and frightening at the same time.

Lee Bontecou, A Retrospective, is absolutely a must-see exhibition of the work of one of the most important artists of her age. Her fierce independence from the popular art movements as well as her own intuitively perceptive perceptions of the connections between all things in nature have resulted in the creation of a truly distinctive body of work that is an essential component of the celebrated 1960s art scene, but that still is evolving to great effect today. The exhibition presents not only her trademark work, but also her latest pieces, as well as numerous drawings, most of which have never been publicly exhibited. This exhibition is an opportunity to see the full life’s work of one of the greatest living female artists, and should not be missed. The retrospective will be on view until May 30, 2004, where it will then travel to the UCLA Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, and finally close at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. There are several events associated with this exhibition including a curator’s tour on Tuesday, March 2, at 2.00pm as well as a lecture by the chief curator on Saturday, April 20, at 6.00pm. The “free day” policy at the MCA has also been restricted to Tuesday evenings from 3:00 to 8.00pm. For more information on the exhibition, special events, and dates and times please visit the website at www.mcachicago.org.

Bontecou in her studio during the 60s; Flit shows a dark abyss; the artist today.

Student Government Association

General Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2004
MTV Auditorium
9:30 P.M.

sga@iit.edu

Brew and View: Good 18+ Hot Spot

By Beckie Peel

As I step through well-used doors into the lobby of the Vic Theater, ready for my first Brew & View experience, I check out the concert posters, concession stand and the very nice hat and scarf set on the patron in front of me. Brew & View is “Chicago’s place to have a Brew and View your favorite movie”. Signs on the walls inform those entering that the movie house is 18+ so please have ID’s ready. As I will not be the ripe old age of 21 until next month, I received a rough “Don’t drink” instead of the /Do not drink/ paper bracelets adorning the wrists of the majority of my compatriots. Admission is $5 for everyone “Senior Citizens go pound sand”, states their webpage which includes two movies, usually second- and third-run, or cult favorites such as Grosse Pointe Blank.

Having now gained admittance, I head into the theater which is filled with benches, chairs, small circular tables and two bars. Most of the tables are already contain large plastic cups full of brew, the bars having Miller Lite, Guinness, Arntzen Draft, Leine Red and Fosters on tap. The course of action most people follow is to find seating and then head to one of the three bars on the premise for some liquid refreshment—I made do with a quite sorry piece of cheese pizza from Gino’s Easy, purchased at the concession stand. The moviegoers around me chat animately, enjoying their drinks and smoking a few cigarettes. The movie, Elf, scheduled to start at 8:00 p.m. gets underway around 8:15 as the strugglers situate themselves. The crowd really enjoys the feature, laughing long and hard, due partly to the humor of the movie and partly to the average-induced happiness. Wisecracks can be heard occasionally, usually resulting in more merriment. I only stay for the first movie, as my friends and I have no real desire to see Elf Santa and because our stomachs are complaining, on no uncertain terms, about the lack of dinner. I did have a marvelous time, however. The atmosphere is perfect to sit back and relax with friends, new and old, enjoying a movie over a drink (or cheese pizza). It’s most definitely not your everyday multiplex cinema, with stadium seating and ushers yelling at you to keep your feet of the seat in front of you. Brew & View is about having a good time, like hosting a movie night in your home but better, because you don’t have to clean up afterwards. I would absolutely recommend Brew & View for a night out with your friends or significant other.

For more information, call 773-929-6713 or visit www.brewview.com

Movie Schedule 2/13-2/19
The Rundown @ 8 p.m.
Elf @ Midnight (Friday 13, and Saturday 14, Thursday 19)
Restaurant Raves

By Maria Vasos

Carmine’s Clamhouse
1043 N. Rush St.
Hours: 11:30am – 11:30pm Daily

Carmine’s Clamhouse is possible. Therefore, Carmine’s receives a B.

This Greektown establishment is the perfect good time “outside the box” of traditional dining, but comes complete with the amenities of any high-quality restaurant such as valet parking, a full bar, and a coat check.

The menu has Greek names with English descriptions, in case you’re wondering. So, out of your choice of appetizers, I would become less car-dependent and ride my new purchase whenever I wanted to visit friends in Bridgeport or go to the lake. Of course, within a week, I wiped out on my plan due to dropping temperatures and an increase in homework load. For those of you who can handle the cold and agree that biking to wherever you need to be is the best way to prevent air pollution, noise pollution, oil spills, heart disease, traffic, parking problems and high transportation costs, Critical Mass Chicago might be for you. This Greektown establishment is the perfect option for you.

As the mass moves along, red lights are run in order to keep the group as whole. Dogs, people old and young, biking forever or just recently are invited to join in the 8-10 mile ride. Each month, a new map is planned, usually with a theme or consisting of some sort of site tour. You will be able to meet some interesting characters, experience the “Chicago Holdup,” and make quite a statement to the city during the automobile dominated rush hour. Don’t forget to wear lots of layers for the weather and of course, bring your bike (allowed on the El). Maybe I’ll see you there once it warms up around here!

The group has been known to hit the Eisenhower Expressway or Lake Shore Drive for a mile or two to ride right along with the cars, bringing the traffic flow from 70 miles per hour to about 5 mph.

As the group rides and other events happening, visit www.chicagocriticalmass.org.

Program Description

Illinois Institute of Technology and Rush Medical College offer a joint admission program for motivated and intellectually promising college sophomores preparing to attend medical school upon completion of their undergraduate degree and who intend to become research-oriented physicians. This program is for current IIT sophomores majoring in chemical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, or molecular biochemistry and biophysics, and for students attending other colleges or universities and transferring to IIT after completing their sophomore year.

Students will be admitted to this program the summer between their sophomore and junior years and will complete their undergraduate degree at IIT. As part of this program they will participate in a year long research project that bridges engineering/science and medicine. Upon admission to Rush Medical College, students will be selected to either a M.D. program, or a M.D./Ph.D. program.

Eligibility
- IIT students who by the end of Spring 04 will have between 48 and 72 credit hours left to meet the requirements for their major and the Premedical Studies minor and will graduate no earlier than Spring 2005.
- Minimum of GPA of 3.25 cumulative - no course grade below a “C” /w grades of B or better in all required courses.
- Students majoring in biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science or molecular biochemistry and biophysics.
- Applicants should have successfully completed or be close to completion of courses which include eight semester hours in biology or zoology, eight semester hours in laboratory courses in inorganic and organic chemistry, and eight semester hours in general physics.

This is a highly competitive program with limited space available.

Application available in Premed Office - E1 116
Deadline is March 8th
Chevrolet has upped the ante once again. Introducing the 2005 Corvette C6, it outclasses its predecessors. Officially dubbed the C6. This classic American sports car blends unmistakable muscle car heritage, fresh design elements and an improved powertrain—proving to its American and European counterparts that Corvette is back with a vengeance. Although exterior improvements may seem minor to the untrained eye, many characteristics from the C5 were modified to improve Corvette’s performance on and off the track, while making it more appealing to buyers potentially considering a car from the other side of the Atlantic. Interior components have also received a much needed overhaul, as previous Corvette’s have suffered from rental-car syndrome. More on this later. And then there is performance. In an effort to keep up with competition from Dodge, Porsche, and Ferrari, Chevrolet’s engineers has dropped a new Gen-IV LS2 V-8 capable of 400 horsepower in the base model Corvette—enough to bring wide grins to sports car fanatics. Although the base model Corvette—enough to bring wide grins to sports car fanatics. although horsepower weren’t enough? Well you would like at the destination. Well, even though you aren’t Michael Knight and this is not KITT, this Corvette offers more amenities that keep you happy. As noted earlier, this year’s design team has the task of dealing with an interior reminiscent of the rental car you drove during winter break. Gone are the cheap plastic components which were common complaints from previous buyers, and in are more sophisticated matte gray and color- coordinate to your choice of carpeting. To start her up, just push a button—no need to insert a key. The proximity sensor in your pocket identifies you as the driver. Upon bringing the engine to life, you will instantly notice the Heads-Up Display (HUD) projected onto the windshield, displaying everything from speed and lateral acceleration to map data from the internal GPS system. Overall, interior improvements make sitting in the 2005 C6 a more pleasant experience. The Art of the Car Ad

By Sabine Koliwitz

TECHNEWS WRITER

H ave you ever been in another room, and a commercial comes on with a song that leaves you begging for more, do you recognize at least an artist and a title? The commercials’ musical directors dig up the best finds, while radio can’t seem to play one decent song in a one hour block. Does this leave you frustrated beyond words? And what happens when the commercial is discontinued and you have no way of ever tracking down the song you’ve been craving for the past three weeks? I have done extensive research, and compiled a list of songs, as well as artists to a few recently popular commercials. Remember the Mitsubishi commercial, where the passenger seat occupants switch constantly and the driver seems to be driving through Las Vegas on New Years? Teletopia’s “Breaks” was so catchy and addicting that you did not seem to mind the complete Performance

So you thought the C5’s 350 horsepower weren’t enough? Well you’re in luck. The C6 will offer up 400 horsepower in base form from its pushrod V-8. Prepare for launch sequence. Grab the steering wheel (which is oddly similar to that you would find in an arcade game) and shift into gear. The C6 will be offered with your choice of transmission, either a Temic T-56 six-speed manual, or an upgraded four-speed automatic. Promising to get you from 640 mph in 4.1 seconds, this Corvette will have no problem get- ting you to 180 mph, enough to put a fair distance between yourself and the police pursuit vehicles. So you think you want one? Yeah, so did Atari roughly the cost of four semesters at IIT (or $47,000 base), the 2005 Corvette will cost a pretty penny, but leave you satis- fied none the less. Overall, this Corvette will offer up substantial performance to match its attitude and heritage.
Behind the desk

By Jon Murawski
SPORTS EDITOR

A thought is one of the most
people do not think it is neces-
sary to have a focus on
athletic programs at a
technology based school
as ours. I believe it is highly
beneficial to not
only keep all athletics but also
to improve upon them in
every way. For example, the
addition of a men's and women's soccer
can now express even more of the
talent we bestow.

I believe it is imperative for the
faculty and students to make
an effort to encourage our
eports and off the field and to have
a sense of pride in at least one
component of IIT, as peculiar as
it sounds. Many people underesti-
timate the time and dedication
it takes to play a sport or more
than one, which several students
have noticed on several occasions
in the various academic meet-

I commend the IIT athletes for
their loyal dedication to athletics
and their classrooms studies. I
have noticed on several occasions
that most athletic home games
achieve a very poor attendance
rating. Whether the games are
poorly advertised by the school
personnel or a lack of interest ex-
ists amongst the campus as a
whole, I believe the seats can be
filled with a little pride or even
curiosity among the students.

There is no better feel-
ing than making the
wining goal, strik-
ing out the last
batter, or draining the winning
three-pointer and seeing your
last batter, or draining the winning
stroke. Also, diver and Matt Robertson
by the time and dedication it
sas in March. For the other swimmers, it
will be the final meet swimming tired be-
fore they taper (have easier practices)
for Nationals.

Swimmers on the Road to the Last Meet Before Nationals

By Brianna Swenson
TECHNEWS WRITER

It's been a hard, grueling five months.

This coming weekend is the final meet
of the season before Nationals for the Illi-
nois Tech swimmers. It’s been a hard, gru-
eling five months, but with less than three
weeks left, the team is finally coming into
it’s own. Friday and Saturday the team will
tavel down to Wheaton, Illinois to
swim in the Midwest Championship Meet.

For the six swimmers
(Sean McCann, Matt
Pearson, Siddha
Pimpukkar, Kaylyn Starks, Vadim Sinitsyn,
and Jason Tenenbaum) who have not yet
qualified to Nationals, this will be their last
chance to drop time and earn a berth to Kan-
sas and in March. For the other swimmers, it
will be the final meet swimming tired be-
fore they taper (have easier practices) for
Nationals.

Thanks to everyone who has sup-
ported the team so far this year, be sure to
wish them extra luck as they finish up with
the two biggest meets of the year!
Leadership Seminar
By Daisy Agosi
TECHNEWS WRITER

The seminar organized by the leadership academy this Saturday, was presented by Dr Carl Robinson was geared towards preparing the minds of the upcoming generation to face the challenges encountered in the dynamic working environment. Challenges that would require foresight and preparation when things are profitable and a fall back on these established resources when things get tough.

The presenter kicked off the exercise by asking everyone to write a problem which they currently faced, they were required to analyze this problem at each interval and write some decisive measures towards solving them.

There was a systematic build-up before the core of the topic was discussed. The concept of learned helplessness was particularly engaging, because it showed how individuals responded to a hopeless situation by just allowing it to run its course.

The discussion reached its peak after we were shown two video clips one that showed the extreme effect of bad organizational management: total breakdown of communication, and the other that was the exact opposite. The challenge was to analyze the first video clip, get individual opinions on what went wrong, to proffer solutions and the make a comparison with the second video clip.

The contributions made by the students at this point were indeed impressive. It was interesting to observe the level of thinking involved in analysis of the problem and solutions suggested. Generally, it was noted that a tradition of inspiration leadership and communication between management and workers was fundamental for any organization to survive tough times. I would also add that the idea of roping people and involving them in change would yield better results than imposing it upon them.

By Daisy Agosi
TECHNEWS WRITER
The Harsh Reality of Intolerance

By Kalaida Holmes
I-Tech Editor

The word Bam! resonates throughout the MSV Cafeteria. “The next little guy that passes by me will get one right in the face.” Bam! shouted one actor in an emotional monologue about a boy forced into violence by pressure from his peers, his father to be a “man” and to hang with the boys. The emotion across the young boy’s face, Talleri McRae, moved the audience so deeply that many faces began to register the same look of despair the character displayed. “The scene gave you a real sense of how society views gays because he [Talleri’s character] was not even gay but because he hung around females everyone assumed he was,” said Chassaire Hambright, a 1st year architecture student. McRae’s character reminded people of that sudden change in adolescence when it is not cool to hang with the opposite sex anymore and how difficult it was when you did not make that change with the rest of your peers.

The riveting monologue performed by McRae was the first of three emotional scenes presented by members of the About Face Theatre in their performance entitled “On the Down Low.” About Face Theatre took the audience through despair and fear to confusion and anger to defeat and triumph. After each scene, Megan Carney, the Artistic Director of About Face, lead the audience in discussion to help absorb the emotional scenes. About Face Theatre group is a Chicago based artistic group that creates and produces innovative performances that encompass the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience. “On the Down Low” is an educational performance from About Face Youth Theatre, with performers ages 14-20. “On the Down Low” sought to educate attendees in a non-classroom setting through in your face scenes and discussion about homosexuality and tolerance among cast members and the audience.

The second scene depicted a classroom setting that began with students enthusiastically describing their Spring Break and ended with a student being kicked out of class for yelling that Brandon Tina, who “Boys Don’t Cry” was based on, deserved to die and insulted another female student with names like “dike.” The classroom situation questioned the audience’s consciousness and recalled the times they sat by, for whatever reason, and watched someone being cruel to someone else because they were believed to be different. The audience was asked to study the scene and discuss what could have been done differently to prevent the situation that occurred. The audience was also challenged to draw on experience and think about the times when we stood up for someone and even the times we did not.

The third scene was a monologue by the same female student from the second scene, who described being tormented by her classmates for being a lesbian. Her vivid descriptions of lying, being called “Val’s day?”

Linais: “I don’t think about it.”
Lissa: “It is a day that makes you go to with ‘him’.”
Q: How would you spend the day?
Linais: “Go out to some nice restaurant and eat good food (that we lack here)”
Lissa: “We should just spend time with the ones we love”
Q: What would you change about Val’s day? (Do you think it is light enough?)
Linais: “I think there is too much pressure on the guys, because the girls always have to do the ‘taking-out’ and ‘gift-buying’.
Lissa: “Maybe it should be called ‘girlfriends’ day’”

So the guys think that Val’s day is overrated and the girls may feel left out if they do not get gifts on Val’s day. Do we want to change that, by any means?

If you think you should be next week’s Couple of the Week, or you know couple that should be, send a brief email explaining why and the couple’s contact information to agosdai@iit.edu.
too cold outside?

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