

NEWS

Controversial play not to be

By **MICHELLE FRY**
Staff Writer

V-Day will not be celebrated on campus.

Despite past success with the play, it will not be performed this year.

Larsen reported that not having an auditorium due to tornado damage has played a big role, as well as a decline in student interest, in the decision to cancel the performance of "Vagina Monologues."

"We're going to try to start planning early for next year's performance," said Larsen.

Born in 1998 as an outgrowth of Eve Ensler's Obie-Award winning play "Vagina Monologues," V-Day has become a global movement to stop violence against women and girls.

Information provided by <http://www.vday.org> states that V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.

It demands that the violence must end.

It proclaims Valentine's Day as V-Day until the violence stops.

When all women live in safety, no

longer fearing violence or the threat of violence, then V-Day will be known as Victory Over Violence Day.

"I was outraged... about the way women have been taught about their sexuality and how to deal with it."

- Linda Brady, associate professor of English

While campaigning for V-Day, each year volunteers and college students produce benefit performances of the "Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities.

For the past three years, Volunteer State Community College has participated in the celebration of V-Day.

Dr. Dawn Larsen, assistant professor of theater and communication, said that the first year proceeds totaled to \$1,000, the second year \$1,200 and this past year \$1,500.

All funds went to HomeSafe,

Gallatin's shelter for women and children who suffer from domestic violence.

"The organization helps to eradicate violence. It provides a shelter to go to and helps to keep them safe because whoever is abusing them will come after them," said Larsen.

Larsen said she had known of colleges and universities in the area promoting V-Day and thought that VSCC should as well.

Stepping in as director of the production of "Vagina Monologues," Larsen said that she thought the play, which is a collection of stories from women's experience, was a good idea because of the need to raise money for shelters.

"I have had a lot of female students with domestic violence experience. I have had experience myself," added Larsen.

Scheduled as a two-day event performed in the Wemyss Auditorium, Larsen said that the first year student participation was not advised, but was rather performed by professional faculty staff.

From then on, however, auditions were conducted as students showed interest in taking part in "Vagina Monologues."

Reminiscing back on the first year, Linda Brady, associate professor of English, said that she knew that the play was controversial.

She said she felt a little nervous, but once she got to reading, she found the material very touching.

"I was outraged at some of the discoveries about the way women have been taught about their sexuality and how to deal with it," said Brady.

Overall, Brady said that it was extremely satisfying to be part of the production, but now prefers to see others get involved.

"Thinking about what you're reading is extremely enlightening," said Brady.

Slam poet to perform at Unity Day event

By **TRAVIS BATISTA**
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the Association of Campus Events will be hosting Unity Day, said Dominique Evans, president of ACE.

It will take place in the Richard Moore Gymnasium, located in the T. Wesley Pickel Field House, continued Evans.

"This is a day to bring all the races, creeds, etcetera, together," stated Evans.

Unity Day is an event that helps kick off Black History Month and also recognizes the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., states Dr. Monique Robinson-Wright director of Student Life in the 2007 Spring

Minority News Letter.

To help celebrate Unity Day, there will be a guest speaker known as Asia, said Evans.

He is a poetry slam poet that has dealt with social struggles throughout his life, as stated in his artist page at Pavlovsdogentertainment.com.

"(Asia) struggled to question why his Filipino descent seemed to almost outcast him from others.

And more so, he even felt shameful to show his nationality to the world around him, afraid of ridicule and further social exile. It was then that he found spoken word poetry," states his artist page.

Asia will hopefully help us to realize and reestablish that we are all one, Evans said.



ACNE

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

Research study using a topical Investigational treatment for acne

Research related visits and study drug are provided at no cost

Participants may be male or female between the ages of 12 and 70

**Call (615)- SKIN
(615)- 7546**