

'Forget Me Not' tackles domestic abuse head on

Theater Department production was written by IWIL program members

From Staff Reports

The Department of Theatre Studies and IWIL present "Forget Me Not", a moving play about survivors of domestic violence.

A one-act play based on oral interviews conducted by students in the Institute for Women in Leadership program (IWIL), "Forget Me Not" is the story of five women who have survived domestic abuse. The play will be produced at Brevard College, from April 23-25 at 8 pm.

"Forget Me Not" is collaboration between the Institute for Women in Leadership (IWIL) and the Department of Theatre Studies. In fall 2008, twelve members of IWIL, under the guidance of history professor and IWIL leader Dr. Margaret Brown, conducted interviews with survivors of domestic violence. "It was not easy," said Carrie Ann Bowen, a junior from New Jersey. "These women we interviewed let us into their lives—and what they told us was hard to hear..." Other interviewers included Margaret Ann Medley, Emily Barrick, Jessica Crocker, Mavis Figueroa, Jennifer King, Katherine Parnell, Megan Murph, Rebecca Schoonover, Brook Sturgill and Nina Willis. Nine of these students, with



From left, Christina Nelson, Kait McConomy, Kaitlyn Wood and Hunter McCreary rehearse for "Forget Me Not," which opens April 23 at the Porter Center's Morrison Playhouse.

the help of Coordinator of Theatre Studies Dr. Kelly Carolyn Gordon, went on to turn the transcripts of the interviews into a play. "This was a yearlong project for IWIL, I am very proud of how these women challenged themselves to bring these stories to our community," said Brown.

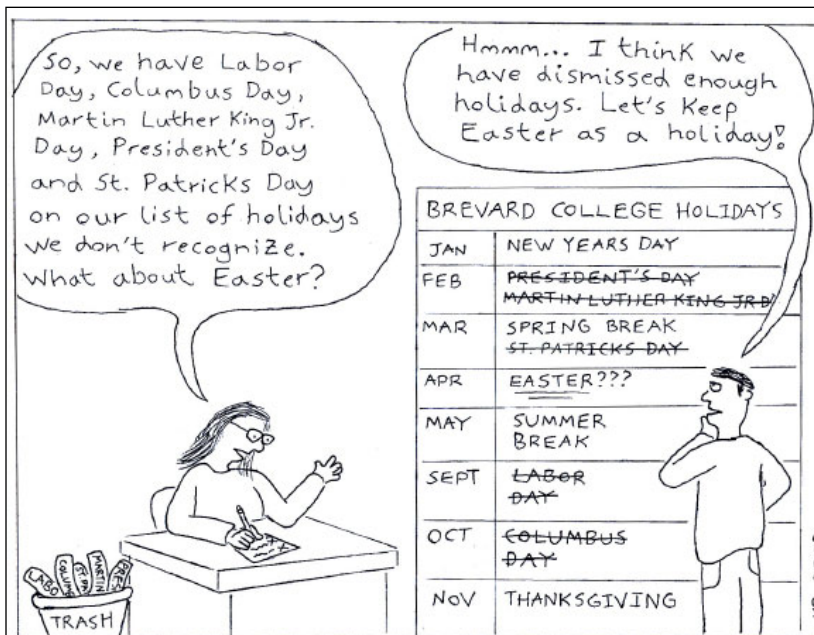
In early March 2009, the play was handed over to the Intro to Directing class- junior Erin O'Rourke, sophomore Kara Ontiveros, and sophomore Katherine Parnell (who is also a member of IWIL). After conducting a close analysis of the play, the directors

cast Christina Nelson (Violet), Kait McConomy (Azalea), Hunter McCreary (Amaryllis), Kelli Tysinger (Iris), and Kaitlyn Wood (Zinnia). Wood is also a member of the IWIL program. The entire production team, including playwrights, directors, actors, designers, and technicians, is female.

The IWIL women were able to create a moving script, detailing the heart-wrenching deceptions of love as experienced by the five women. These survivors come together to heal a piece of lives once torn apart. "It's inspiring. I most want people who don't know anything about domestic violence to have the same experience I did- to understand the world differently after they meet these women," said Nina Willis, a sophomore from Charlotte.

The play will be performed April 23-25 in The Morrison Playhouse at The Porter Center on the Brevard College campus. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Single play tickets are \$10 for adults and \$2 for students. 50 percent of ticket sales will benefit Project Safe. Tickets are available at The Porter Center Box Office.

Following the April 23 performance (approximately 9 p.m.), the BC Peer Health Advocate Team and SAFE will host a Take Back the Night march to raise awareness and support victims of domestic and sexual abuse. The march will begin at the Porter Center Amphitheatre.



Cartoon by Karam Boeshaar