2-14-2019

Iowa State Daily (February 14, 2019)

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**LET'S TALK**

**Tomy Love**

"Valentine's Day is about celebrating love and showing appreciation," Munika Moore said. "Valentine's has changed for me where it's more female-centered. I love Valentine's and celebrating women in general." 

**Tomy Cau$h.**

"[We spend] as much time together as possible between classes and work," Emilene Hanscel said.

**Singles**: Freshman in agricultural engineering Isaac Linn is celebrating Valentine's Day his own way. "I like Ramen, and I'm very single, probably will be for a very long time," Linn said. "I'm gonna sit in my room, maybe eat some ramen and read my book." Being single on the heartfelt holiday is not new to Linn, which he said he accepts as just another part of life. "Honestly it's not a big deal, life is what it is, gotta take it for what it's worth," Linn said. Meredith Whereldon, senior in psychology, also isn't letting being single on Valentine's Day bring her down.

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**MONOLOGUE**

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**'Vagina Monologues' to highlight sexual experiences**

**BY CAITLIN YAMADA**

This Valentine’s Day, “The Vagina Monologues” will discuss consensual and non-consensual sexual experiences surrounding the vagina. Iowa State will present “The Vagina Monologues” from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday and from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and 9 to 10:30 p.m. Friday in the Sun Room of the Memorial Union.

The monologues cover topics such as body image, genital mutilation and reproduction. This is done through personal monologues performed by women of various ages, races and sexualities.

The Margaret Sloss Center for Women and Gender Equity, Student Union Board and the Society for the Advancement of Gender Equity hosted “The Vagina Monologues.” All of the benefits go to the Assault Care Center Extending Shelter and Support.

“The Vagina Monologues” were brought to Iowa State in 2001 by Alissa Stoebe, a student at the time and now a lecturer in the women and gender studies department.

The monologues were first written in 1995 from interviews done by Eve Ensler with more than 200 women. The interviews began as conversations with her friends and they would recommend her to other women.

Ensler performed every monologue herself in the beginning, with following performances featuring three other actresses.

Since it opened on Oct. 3, 1996 at the HERE Arts Center in New York City, the performance has been ever-changing. In 2004, the first all-transgender performance premiered.

Some of the monologues include, “I Was Twelve,” “My Mother Slapped Me” and “My Angry Vagina,” a piece about young women and girls first menstrual period.

Another monologue was “The Women Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy,” about a sex worker who discusses the details of her career and her love for giving women pleasure.

After gaining momentum, “The Vagina Monologues” sparked the V-Day movement. The V-Day movement is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.

It is described as a "catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.”

Colleges were then encouraged to perform “The Vagina Monologues” on or near Valentine’s Day to raise money and to help make violence against women visible.

Over the years, “The Vagina Monologues” has received criticism from feminists and social conservatives regarding anti-transgender and colonial.

A feminist, Betty Dodson, criticized the play for the lack of the term “clitoris” throughout the play. She believes the play sends messages that the clitoris is not a male organ, not the clitoris. Members of the transgender community have also criticized it for being insufficiently inclusive of transgender people.

The Margaret Sloss Center for Women and Gender Studies.
Participants dazzle in return of scholarship pageant

Women of color who exemplify grace, style, poise and academic excellence were recognized in a scholarship pageant Saturday at the Iowa State Alumni Center.

The Omicron Pi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted their annual Miss Black & Gold Scholarship Pageant that allows black and brown women to formally compete for a scholarship.

The winner of the pageant is given the chance to advance to further competitions such as regionals in Toronto, Canada, and then possibly nationals competition in Las Vegas.

The district finals of the pageant hosted by the fraternity on Iowa State campus welcome black and brown college women from Iowa State and Drake University to participate.

After 10 years of not hosting, in 2015 Alpha Phi Alpha decided to restart the tradition and host again in 2019.

"This is a platform for black and brown women to gain experience and get out of their box," said Julian Neely, historian chair for Alpha Phi Alpha and Student Government president.

This year’s participants included: Jada Alexander, sophomore in biology, Nadine Yeasley, junior in microbiology, Azariah Franklin, junior in kinesiology and health and Reality Hendricks, senior in theater and performing arts from Drake.

Emceed by Jeremiah Reed, chapter president, the four young women competed through the different stages of the pageant.

First was the introductory stage, where participants introduced themselves to the judges and audience by stating what they study, where they work, and what they aspire to be.

Following the introductions, the participants modeled their own sense of fashion in business professional attire.

The ladies then proceeded to their talent performance where Alexander and Hendricks performed songs of their choosing and Franklin and Yeasley recited original poems.

From matters of being a black woman in business to matters of being a black woman in society, the ladies wanted to show that allows black and brown women to for change to advance to further competitions such as regionals in Toronto, Canada, and then possibly nationals competition in Las Vegas.

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Iowa State opens veterinary radiation facility

BY JORDYN DUBOIS
@Iowastatedaily.com

After sending patients to other clinics for radiation therapy, Iowa State’s school of veterinary medicine will finally get to keep patients close.

Radiation therapy offers treatment to animals with cancerous tumors to zero in on the tumors and destroy cancer cells.

“When you look at cancer treatments surgery, radiation, chemo/immunotherapy those are kinda the pillars of treatment and we have not really been able to offer radiation therapy, said Dr. Chad Johannes, a medical oncologist at the facility and assistant professor of veterinary clinical sciences.

Iowa State is the first to get a radiation facility in Iowa and was able to get a newer model for radiation therapy allowing more advanced treatments for patients.

The facility opened on Feb. 4. Within the first week, lots of patients have come in to discuss if their pets fit the criteria to be a candidate for radiation treatment.

Johannes said that a medical oncologist, surgery team members and radiation specialists decide as a team with the client what the best option for them and their pet is, and if radiation is, then their pet becomes a candidate.

According to a press release, funding for the facility was covered by hospital funds, private gifts and a state appropriation from Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funds. The total for the facility was $3.7 million.

The clinic will treat its first patients later this week. First on the schedule is a cat, a dog and a pet rat.

The treatment is so precise that the staff anesthetizes the animal for the procedure. The procedure can last up to 30-45 minutes, but the beam is only on the animal a couple of minutes. Each patient can be looking at anywhere from three to 20 sessions, Johannes said.

In the clinic plans on treating five to six patients each day. The clinic also plans on treating a variety of different animals.

“Any animal that we can get through the doors and anesthetize, Johannes said.

Iowa State has a remote radiation oncologist that does all the planning for the procedures and allows the clinic to get up and running without having to hire a full-time radiation oncologist.

Drema Lopez, a previous human radiation therapist, will perform the procedures at the clinic. Lopez has 18 years of experience working with human radiation treatments.

Johannes said that because of the location and number of current patients eligible for radiation therapy, that Iowa State will see a lot more patients.

“There’s a lot of pets that don’t have easy access to this therapy that now will be able to provide,” Johannes said.

SPRING CAREER FAIR

Fair hosts over 140 companies in business, industry and technology

BY KIRSTIE MARTIN
@Iowastatedaily.com

1,800 students attend on average.

Over 140 companies attended the career fair, including major companies like Caterpillar, Enterprise and Kum & Go. Although the spring career fair isn’t as large as the fall career fair, 1,800 students attend on average.

Iowa State veterinary sciences opened a new radiation facility at Small Animal Hospital.

Hilton Coliseum was full of students and alumni dressed in their best business casual to network or obtain an internship, co-op or a full time position Tuesday for the spring Business, Industry and Technology Career Fair.

Over 140 companies attended the career fair, including major companies like Caterpillar, Enterprise and Kum & Go. Although the spring career fair isn’t as large as the fall career fair, 1,800 students attend on average.

Sajila Sripathi, a graduate student in management and information systems, attended the career fair to find a full time job. Sripathi encourages freshman to attend the career fair when possible.

“It’s always a good way to build relationships,” Sripathi said. “This way in the coming years, when you want an internship, it will be easier.”

While some like Sripathi are looking for full time jobs, others were looking for internships or co-ops.

Madison Smith, a senior in supply chain management, was attending to get an internship or co-op.

“I want to get an internship or co-op so that I can gain some experience within the Supply Chain Management industry,” Smith said.

The career fair is also open to Iowa State graduates. Nathan Fowler graduated from Iowa State in 2012 with his bachelor’s in chemical engineering. He attended the fair looking for a full time position in software engineering.

“I feel like this is a great opportunity. I feel like students attended the career fair purely to gain experience in talking to employers.”

Joey Koenen, a sophomore in management and information systems, didn’t come into the career fair looking for an internship or co-op.

“The career fair is just to learn about companies in general,” Koenen said. “I also want to learn what companies within my major do as a whole.”

Following the career fair, some will go through all the appointments they received and pick those that stand out or match their requirements and hold interviews on campus in the following days.

“I want to get an internship or co-op so that I can gain some experience within the Supply Chain Management industry,” Smith said.

THE TALK pg1

Well I’ve only ever been single on Valentine’s Day once, and it actually turned out to be a really awful day,” Wheelock said. “So I don’t know, I guess it’s kind of a blessing to be single.

Wheelock celebrated on Wednesday with one of her girlfriends at a local pet shop, Treats on a Leash, which hosted a girls-only Galentine’s Day event featuring drinks such as hot chocolate and wine, as well as store discounts.

“In years past it’s kind of been like, I’ll avoid social media and stuff, and some days I don’t even notice that it happens you know I just like continue on,” Wheelock said.

As for the big day itself, Wheelock said she considers it to be just another busy day of the week.

“It’ll be another long day like today, and I’ll do homework, maybe treat myself to a snack of some sort and then wake up Friday morning,” Wheelock said.

LONG DISTANCE:

Making the decision to go long-distance, often requires a careful thought process.

Taylor Ferrere, a senior in Animal Sciences, split with her boyfriend of two years after trying long distance.

“It really sucked, I’ll be honest, but what you really miss is seeing them everyday,” Ferrere said. “When you have a really tough day with classes or at school, you kind of just want to go home and unwind, and just be next to the person.”

After being apart for two years, the pair reunited this past September and just celebrated six months together again.

“Something that we now do that we didn’t do in the past is we Skype on a regular basis,” Ferrere said. “It’s the best thing we can do to make it work and for now, it’s just what we do to keep the sparks alive.”

Graham Eichstaedt and his girlfriend will be celebrating their first Valentine’s Day together in different states. Finding time to call each other helps them handle long-distance as best as they can.

“I was really worried about it when it first started, but if you just communicate well, and put the amount of effort you put anything you care about, it’ll be fine,” Eichstaedt said.

Whether you’re celebrating simultaneously from computer screens with takeout or making the long drive for an extended weekend, there are still ways to celebrate the holiday.

“Just because you’re far away from each other doesn’t mean you should stop loving each other,” Ferrere said. “You’ll fall in love with them for a reason, so don’t forget that reason, you shouldn’t ever stop romancing them because they’re not next to you.”

NEW RELATIONSHIPS:

New relationships can seem daunting, but are also adventurous and thrilling. You have a new person to understand, and that includes their quirks, pet peeves and much more.

Emeline Hanscel, senior in accounting, will be spending her first Valentine’s Day with her significant other. The couple has been together for about a month and met on Tinder, a popular dating app for college students.

While some couples like to go out and party, Hanscel and her significant other enjoy watching movies and relaxing together.

“We spend as much time together as possible between classes and work,” Hanscel said in an email. “Communication is big, as well as respect for one another.”

“We have never put a huge emphasis on Valentine’s Day,” Dalton Craft said. “But it is a reason to celebrate each other.”

The couple prefers to splurge on elaborate gifts for the holiday.

“ Less stress equals better,” said Krysten Craft. This year, the couple plans to go to Provisions Lot E in Ames, to possibly play some cards and enjoy each other company.

I’m less jaded towards [Valentine’s Day] now,” Dalton Craft said. “Initially I thought it was just a made up holiday, but now it is more of a special occasion.”

THE TALK pg1
THANK YOU, READERS

Without the support of the community, the Iowa State Daily couldn’t exist

BY ALEX CONNOR
alex.connor@iowastatedaily.com

I figured it fitting that my weekly column on media literacy fell on Valentine’s Day. This ensures that I have the space to thank you, our readership, for all that you do to make the Iowa State Daily better.

I’ve had the privilege of working for the Iowa State Daily for four years. In that time period, I’ve had a lot of late nights, early mornings and many, many meetings. I’ve learned that the best way to do my job, as both an editor and student, is to live by Google Calendar. As a reporter, I’ve attended heated meetings about uncomfortable issues. On the flip, I’ve attended joyful and heartwarming events where I wished that I could take off my journalistic hat and participate.

In leadership positions, I’ve learned how to handle conflict. I’ve learned the importance of my role and the influence it can have.

I’ve also learned so much from you — our reader — about what you like, don’t like and how you think we can improve as an organization. It’s not always easy to hear about our faults, but it’s integral to continuously improve and grow our relevance at Iowa State. I’ve especially learned how different each of you are, as well as the importance of the diversity of our community and how it should be continuously celebrated and cherished.

Most importantly, I’ve learned how much value you bring to what we do as a news organization. We wouldn’t be able to exist without your support.

So, thank you.

I just have a simple ask. Please let me know how you feel the Iowa State Daily can improve. We are constantly looking for feedback and know that we cannot do better if we don’t know what we’re doing wrong.

While we’ve created more opportunities for reader engagement with the Iowa State Daily, such as #AskMeAmes and our live-storytelling event Daily Dialogue, there’s still so much more we can do.

Feel free to reach out at alex.connor@iowastatedaily.com or stop by the offices at 2420 Lincoln Way, Suite 205. Our door is always open for you.

Happy Valentine’s Day from the Iowa State Daily!

editorial

The horrid history behind Valentine’s Day

It’s that time of year again. The month that is dedicated to romance, in which chocolate boxes and bears holding hearts seem to be stuffed onto every shelf of every store.

But was Feb. 14 always the day of love? Or did it derive from something else that wasn’t as sweet?

According to History.com, it is believed that St. Valentine’s day takes place in the middle of February as a way to draw away from the not-romantic Pagan Festival, Lupercalia, which happened to be celebrated in Rome on Feb. 15.

Compared to how we now celebrate Valentine’s Day, Lupercalia was more of a fertility festival. Animal sacrifices were performed and rituals that consisted of women being slapped with the hide of sacrificed animals would be practiced during this festival because it was believed that the touch of the hide would make them more fertile in the coming year.

Once Christianity had taken root toward the end of the fifth century, Pope Gelasius declared what we today call Valentine’s Day to be on Feb. 14 but it wasn’t until a later date that it began to be associated with the idea of love.

There are many stories of who this festive day commemorates. The one story that stands out among the rest is of a holy priest who was executed Feb. 14, 248 A.D., by the name of Valentine.

He was beheaded by Emperor Claudius II, who had banned all marriages and engagements in Rome in order to get more soldiers to join his army. The priest Valentine, going against this unfair law, continued to marry couples in secret up until he was discovered. It was after his execution that he was given the title of a saint.

But history can be a tricky thing. There are many records on multiple Saint Valentines who are all martyrs, all under the same date of Feb. 14.

Further down the timeline of history, it is believed that Geoffrey Chaucer helped popularize St. Valentine’s Day with his poem. His poem mentions Feb. 14 as the day birds and humans come together to find their significant other.

Different places around the world have adapted their own version of Valentine’s Day. Although the background of these celebrations might be a tad bit different, some of their concepts can be considered the same.

Take Japan as an example. Women gift different types of chocolates on March 14 to the different types of men in your life. Platonic friends will receive a type called ‘Giri-choco’ compared to their partners who receive a finer type of chocolates.

Whenever or however Valentine’s day came to be, remember to show your love and appreciation to not only your significant other, but to all your friends and family, as well.

letter

You’re wrong, the Beach Boys are FUN, FUN, FUN

BY JACK PASTER
emljp@comcast.net

The February 10 piece titled “The Beach Boys will continue to Stephens Auditorium, only if name” by Trevor Babcock in the Iowa State Daily was filled with vitriol and laced with inflammatory connotations intended to curb interest into what many believe to be the greatest music of all time.

The Beach Boys touring band of Mike Love, Bruce Johnston, musical director Scott Totten, Jeff Foskett, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowill, Christian Love, Keith Hubacher and Randy Leago are among the finest musicians every assembled. They replicate the precise vocal harmonies and sounds that were created by the early Brian Wilson and Mike Love team.

You see, Mr. Babcock, when the Beach Boys are on stage, it’s all about the music. Not the negativity you expose.

We see the touring band with Mike Love 6-8 times a year. We see Brian Wilson with Al Jardine when they tour as well. We can’t help but mention the Beach Boys music lives on because of Mike’s drive to do more than 180 concerts a year all across the globe.

So before you trash the touring band and try to scare people away, perhaps you should attend a concert. You’ll find, as I do, that the genius of the Beach Boys music lives on thanks to Mike and Bruce and the cadre of those who are dedicated to keeping that sound alive.

I always have FUN, FUN, FUN. I always keep coming back for more. You will, too.

IOWA STATE DAILY

ENDNOTES

*Letters must include the name(s), phone number(s), and year in school of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Daily or organizations with which the author(s) are associated.

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*Send your letters to letters@iowastatedaily.com. Letters must include the name(s), phone number(s), majors and/or group affiliation(s) and year in school of the author(s).

*Phone numbers and addresses will not be published.

*Online feedback may be used if first name and last name, major and year in school are included in the post. Feedback posted online is eligible for print in the Iowa State Daily.
Montgomery, Butler expected to break ISU draft drought

BY TREVOR.HOLBROOK
@iowastatedaily.com

If you’re a Cyclone fan following the NFL paths of former Iowa State athletes, pull out your calendar because some important dates are coming up.

For running back David Montgomery and wide receiver Hakeem Butler, the action begins in March. The former Cyclone duo is listed as the only participants from Iowa State at the NFL Combine, according to NFL.com.

The on-field portion of the combine showcases offensive players on March 1-2. Montgomery will go first on March 1 with the rest of the running backs in attendance. Wide receivers participate on March 2.

While the combine will influence both players’ draft stock, the pair is already being evaluated and projected for the NFL Draft on April 25-27.

USA Today pegged both players to be selected near each other in its latest mock draft: Montgomery at No. 57 to Philadelphia and Butler at No. 59 to Indianapolis.

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CBS Sports placed Montgomery at No. 61 overall (No. 3 running back) and Butler at No. 69 overall (No. 9 wide receiver) in its draft prospect rankings, not accounting for specific team needs or fits.

Despite the disparity in position rankings, Butler is near Montgomery in most mock drafts. Regardless of which one is the better player, the positions are important based on how the NFL views value.

Since the 2013 draft, teams haven’t invested as heavily in running backs. Prior to the 2013-14 stretch without a first-round running back, a running back hadn’t been taken in the first round since 1963.

Some of this can be attributed to the league shifting to more passing offenses, and teams cycling through running backs quicker.

On the flip side, a wide receiver’s been drafted in the first round every year since 2008. Currently, it looks like Iowa State’s first-round pick drought dating back to 1973 won’t be broken, but its draftless streak dating back to 2014 almost certainly will.

If one of the two break it, it’d likely be Butler, based on the value teams place on the wide receiver position. Butler’s also suited better to turn some heads at the combine due to his 6-foot-6 frame and blazing speed for his size.

While he has problems with drops and other small knocks, Butler has the physical skills to potentially propel himself up the draft boards with a standout combine.

Campbell’s process finds its foundation

BY AARON.MARNER
@iowastatedaily.com

Iowa State coach Matt Campbell has long talked about the importance of “the process.”

The ideal vision of “the process” is pretty simple: players work hard, develop over the course of their careers and teach the younger players how fill their shoes when their careers are over.

Butler at No. 59 to Indianapolis.

BY AARON.MARNER
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Iowa State coach Matt Campbell has long talked about the importance of “the process.”

The ideal vision of “the process” is pretty simple: players work hard, develop over the course of their careers and teach the younger players how to fill their shoes when their careers are over.

Campbell said of his front seven.

“Now having the guys within those structures going from year two to year three in this defense, I think that’s really big. And again, it allows, you can continue to grow defensively.”

Head coach Matt Campbell speaks during the Rudy’s Bar-B-Q Pep Rally.

On the defensive line, the majority of its production returns. Senior defensive end JaQuan Bailey has a chance to shatter the school sacks record, while interior lineman Ray Lima was a force inside last season as well.

“I think that’s really big,” Campbell said of his front seven.

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While he has problems with drops and other small knocks, Butler has the physical skills to potentially propel himself up the draft boards with a standout combine.
MOVIES TO WATCH

If you’re single:

“KILL BILL” PARTS 1 AND 2
This action couplet, directed by Quentin Tarantino, revolves around a woman with a mysterious history set on revenge. “The Bride” (Uma Thurman) is a poorly fated individual trying to cut loose ends from her past, but the only way to do this is to risk her life.

Watch “Kill Bill” Parts 1 and 2 to warm your heart a little with a masterfully created rivalry from her past life.
Available to stream on Netflix.

“JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK”
Kevin Smith’s stoner duo break out of side roles in “Clerks” and “Mallrats” for a raunchy, late-night comedy. When Jay and Silent Bob learn the internet is bashing the upcoming movie starring their comic book characters, “Blummerman and Chronic,” they embark on a cross-country trip to stop the film from being made. The duo’s relationship is tested, but they overcome thanks to the power of friendship (or maybe just codependency).

Full of stupid humor and hump-hijinks, “Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back” is no masterpiece, but it’s the perfect movie for a late night watch.
Available to stream on Netflix.

“SWISS ARMY MAN”
A castaway stranded in the wilderness (Paul Dano) discovers a washed-up corpse in the wilderness (Paul Dano) discovers a washed-up corpse in the wilderness (Paul Dano) discovers a washed-up corpse with strange abilities (Daniel Radcliffe) that will help him survive.

Like many films in A24’s library, “Swiss Army Man’s” offbeat premise and arthouse presentation may not appeal to general audiences, but those appreciative are in for a special and deeply weird experience.
Available to stream on Netflix.

If you’re taken:

“NICK AND NORAH’S INFINITE PLAYLIST
Throwing it back to 2008, Nick has his heart crushed by his girlfriend, Trish. Norah, Trish’s classmate, notices mixtapes Nick made for Trish despite the breakup. She discovers he shares similar tastes with the unknown creator.

Michael Cera and Kat Dennings star in this fast-paced movie with impercepted moments of simplicity. If you’re searching for a movie with a bit of nostalgia and comedic discomfort, this is one film you won’t want to skip over.
Available to stream on Hulu.

“HER”
“Her,” directed by Spike Jonze and starring Joaquin Phoenix, is an awkward love story that is beyond unconventional.

Set in a near-future, the story of “Her” focuses on a man named Theodore coping with depression following a divorce.

Having to write love letters for others while having no love of his own, Theodore decides to get a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence to give him company. Samantha, voiced by Scarlett Johansson, is sweet and compassionate, just what Theodore needs.

Watch “Her” with a special someone to see where this unconventional pairing takes the two participants by the end.
Available to stream on Netflix.

“PUNCH DRUNK LOVE”
Directed by the Academy Award winner Paul Thomas Anderson, “Punch Drunk Love” is an awkwardly hilarious film about a lonely guy who finds love.

In the lead role, Adam Sandler delivers a complicated and funny performance. If you’re a couple that likes to laugh and appreciates the unconventional, “Punch Drunk Love” will be a memorable watch this Valentine’s Day.
Available to stream on Netflix and Showtime.

“AS GOOD AS IT GETS”
Set in a near-future, the story of “Her” focuses on a man named Theodore coping with depression following a divorce.

Having to write love letters for others while having no love of his own, Theodore decides to get a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence to give him company. Samantha, voiced by Scarlett Johansson, is sweet and compassionate, just what Theodore needs.

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“A SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD”
Scott Pilgrim vs. the World is as classic as romance movies get.
Boy meets the girl of his dreams and falls in love. Then boy learns she has an army of evil exes standing in the way of the perfect relationship and must duel them to the death if he ever hopes to win over her heart.

Edgar Wright meshes comic books, video games and punk rock into this flashy and fast-paced romantic comedy.
Available to stream on Netflix.

Thursday, February 14, 2019 Iowa State Daily LIMELIGHT 07
today’s society to facing the death of a loved one, the varieties of topics captured the experiences the women have endured throughout their lives.

To end the competition, the four women modeled their formal gowns and proceeded to answer the question asked of what they believed was the most important issue for young minorities today. Responses varied from how the system does not allow an even playing field to young minorities, to being ignorant and entitled, the women proceeded to speak on a topic to some many that is not addressed enough.

As the competition came to an end, the 2017 Miss Black & Gold, Alia Jamison had the honor of crowning Franklin as the 2019 Miss Black & Gold.

“This is more a developmental experience than just a scholarship opportunity,” Jamison said. The participants said this opportunity was more of something to get them out of their comfort zone.

Some of the women also said how this was something they did to help boost their confidence.

“If you are not so sure of who you are, just do it, it helps to shape who you are,” Alexander said.

Gender Equity posted a response to the critiques. In this response they state “we also encourage you to critically reflect and think about the issues raised in The Vagina Monologues’ production, the voices heard and the voices not heard in Eve Ensler’s script.”

The Sloss Center explained one of the conditions of getting the rights to the play is that you cannot alter it.

Critiques the monologues have received in the past include the representation of prostitution in “The Women Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy” as a pleasurable experience, the stereotyping of particular identity groups by their “moans” and the issue of inclusivity to women who do not have vaginas.

Eve Ensler wrote an op-ed in Time responding to some of the criticism.

“The Vagina Monologues never intended to be a play about what it means to be a woman. It is and always has been a play about what it means to have a vagina. In the play, I never defined a woman as a person with a vagina,” Ensler said.

There’s so much more to our life together than HIV.”

It doesn’t matter that he’s positive and I’m not. What matters is that we love and support each other.

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