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96-45

February 6, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNIVERSITY BOARD PRESENTS "WHAT ABOUT BLACK WOMYN?"

CHARLESTON -- "What About Black Womyn?", a dark comedy by playwright James Chapman about the quest of three woman living with AIDS, will be performed at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 9, in the Grand Ballroom in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union at Eastern Illinois University.

Prior to the performance dessert will be served, starting at 7 p.m.

This play is a follow-up to last spring's "Our Young Black Men are Dying and Nobody Seems to Care," also presented by University Board. Chapman sees AIDS as a metaphor for all that has happened to black women since being taken from Africa and forced into slavery. He sees AIDS as an opportunity to celebrate their resilience.

The conflict of the play brings home the cruelty and unfairness of the AIDS crisis. The same disease which brings people to an appreciation of life and causes them to live it fully, draws the life out of them.

Prices are \$3 for students with valid ID's and \$5 for the general public. For more information, contact the University Union Ticket Office at 581-5122.

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BLACK WOMYN

The University Board Human Potential Committee, which promotes cultural diversity through multicultural programs, lectures and entertainment, is sponsoring the play, which is part of the activities planned during Eastern's African American Heritage Celebration.