First Year Orientation Show Information

Requirements for Being Involved:

• be a current Southwestern student who will return in the fall.
• cannot have any commitments between August 10th and 23rd
• feel comfortable performing in front of people (prior experience performing is not required)
• get along with a group easily

Description of Project:

In the past first year students have been educated about issues such as diversity and sexual assault through a number of presentations. The incoming class of 2012 will get to participate in a pilot project that will hopefully replace these presentations in future years. Using theatre for social justice techniques, 15 current Southwestern students will create a show addressing all of the issues that first year students face.

To create the show, the 15 students will move in on August 10th, two weeks before school starts. These 15 students will then spend the next two weeks writing and rehearsing a show for first year orientation. Because the students will have no other responsibilities, they will spend all day together working intensively to be ready to perform at the end of first year orientation week.

After the hour and a half long show, each first year seminar will have an hour long dialogue session facilitated by two current Southwestern students. The students in the show will lead these dialogue sessions as well as another group of 40 students. During the dialogue session, the groups will discuss the issues brought up by the show and any other issues that the first year students are worried about. Both the show and the
dialogue facilitation will be completely student led so that the first year students will not be inhibited when discussing sensitive issues like alcohol and sexual assault.

The show itself will cover the following: diversity of race, socioeconomics, religion, sexual orientation, ability, and gender, sexual assault, alcohol and other drug usage, environmentalism, pirate bikes, and any other issues the cast decides are important for incoming first years. The format of the show will most likely be a collection of scenes that are written using experiences of the students in the cast.

If you would like to be a part of the group that will write, rehearse, and perform 2008’s first year orientation show please fill out the attached information sheet.