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Hip-Hop Performance Piece *The Color Orange* to be Featured at Illinois Wesleyan University's Soul Food Dinner

February 15, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Mohammad Bilal and Josh Goldstein will examine race, racism, and the way we get along in a performance piece entitled *The Color Orange* at Illinois Wesleyan University's annual Soul Food Dinner on Sunday, Feb. 20. The event will be held in the Performance Gym of the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson St., Bloomington.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and the performance will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a question and answer session.

Sponsored by the Issues and Programming Commission of Illinois Wesleyan's Student Senate, the dinner is one of several scheduled events taking place at the University during Black History Month.

In 1997, long-time friends Bilal and Goldstein created the underground hip-hop group "Orange Flash," a name which is meant to invoke the moment of creativity, the "light bulb" of innovation. According to the pair, their performance of *The Color Orange* follows in this vein by using their friendship to actively challenge the American notion of Black and White, Jew and Muslim, urban and suburban. Through a unique blend of the spoken word and hip-hop, Bilal and Goldstein explore racial relations in a black and white world. The duo will rely on hip-hop, theater, "and sheer mayhem" to enliven 10 steps towards the path of cross cultural communication and understanding.

Goldstein has been a rapper for over 14 years and has toured with such artists as the Souls of Mischief and Del the Funky Homosapien. Bilal, a former cast member of MTV's "The Real World" San Francisco, currently works as a musician, poet, writer and lecturer on the topics of diversity, AIDS awareness, and personal responsibility. He received his master's degree in diversity studies and is in the process of writing a book on diversity. Goldstein and Bilal center all of their performances on the promotion of diversity and the abolishment of stereotypes.

Ticket Information

Tickets are \$5 for students, faculty, staff and their families for the dinner and performance. For students, faculty and staff attending only the presentation, tickets are free of charge. Tickets are \$10 for the general public attending the performance and dinner, and \$5 for the performance only.

To purchase tickets, call (309) 556-2663 and leave your name, telephone number, whether you will attend the dinner, speaker, or both, and the number of tickets you would like to purchase. You may also contact Issues and Programming Commissioner Salman Khan at (309) 645-7108 to reserve tickets.

Tickets are also available at the Illinois Wesleyan Business Office, 1312 N. Park St., Bloomington, during business hours, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the door. Students may also purchase tickets at the steps to Bertholf Commons during mealtimes.