

Women's History
Month 2006

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For additional information contact
Women's Studies at 453-5141
or Student Development at
453-5714 or visit us on-line
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U-Card approved event

Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility

A Question of Color

A film by director Kathe Sandler

WHEN: Wednesday, March 6
WHERE: Student Center, Illinois Room
TIME: 12:00 Noon

A Question of Color is the first documentary to confront "color consciousness" in the Black community. It explores the devastating effect of a caste system based on how closely skin color, hair texture and facial features conform to a European ideal. It provides a unique window for examining cross-cultural issues of identity and self-image for anyone who has experienced prejudice. Director Kathe Sandler asked scores of African Americans of all shades about their experience with the "color question" – from New York City to Alabama, from teenagers to a 96 year-old great, great grandmother. We experience the psychological and emotional turmoil which the issue engenders in a college president, a mayor, a TV anchorwoman, young rappers and others – including the filmmaker herself. The film is particularly sensitive to the special burden color consciousness imposes on women. Darker skinned women recall how they have felt devalued and desexualized because of the bias in favor of European standards of beauty. Lighter skinned women reveal the pain of exclusion and ridicule because of their presumed sense of superiority. This unusually sensitive film can help viewers examine the complex interplay between racial identity, culture and self-image in society and within themselves.

A discussion will follow the film.