

Comedian entertains students

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Eastern students seemed at ease when Alysia Woods turned some of the most embarrassing and painful times in her life into laughable situations.

Comedian Alysia Woods traveled across the country from Los Angeles to perform Friday night in 7th Street Underground. She entered a stage dressed like a college student might be: long hair, jeans, an orange and brown vest with a thermal shirt underneath and a book bag carrying the notebook where she kept note of the audience's responses to her punch lines.

She began the night by making light of the outbreak of E. coli in spinach. Recently, she did a show at Indiana University, where she was walking through the cafeteria and noticed a sign stating the school was no longer serving spinach.

"So now lettuce has AIDS," she said.

Woods' down-to-earth attitude made her relatable to all of the audience members. Many said they liked that she talked about serious issues in her life and made fun of them.

"You can kind of relate because she brought forward her problems," said Lauryn Kroger, a senior elementary education major. "That's what makes a comedian funny: when you can relate to the comedian."

Woods revealed an experience many would keep hidden: one about a time she tried to commit suicide with Midol at age 12. Taboo subjects about suicide or suffering from an eating disorder can become another punch line written in her notebook.

"It's something you remember," she said. "Most of it's things I stumbled (into) through life. If you take that pain and make it funny, it can go away."

The audience was even given a history lesson on beer when Woods mentioned watching a special on the History Channel. Beer has been around since before Biblical times. So she made a connection between that and the superstition of people being possessed by demons or spirits.

"Sure, Uncle Jerry was possessed? No, he was just drunk." Immediately, Woods did an impression of a drunken person, and the crowd laughed.

By telling jokes, Woods has learned a lot about herself. Comedy gives her the answer she needs when she has a problem, she said.

"I love that jokes have formulas to them," she said. "It's the tools you need to get through life."

As a female comedian, she notices that not many female comedians are taken seriously. Yet, she said she is determined to work hard against the odds.

"You can't fight through a stereotype if you are not good at what you do," she said.
