

Step to This: The 1993-94 Step Show

by Anthony L. Jenkins

From rump shakers to ground breakers, this year's step show was one that would surpass all. The Alpha's thrilled us with their daredevil stunts as the ladies of AKA and Zeta Phi Beta charmed us with their elegance.

To all who missed this year's step show, I'll try and bring it to you in the best manner I know how. But first let's go back...let's get ready to rumble!

In 1981 a young Sugar Ray Leonard stood before a full house and stated "A fight with Marvelous Marvin Hagler would be one of the greatest fights of all time, but unfortunately it won't never happen" due to an eye injury Leonard suffered in 1980 when he fought The Hitman Thomas Hearn, or that was what Leonard believed. However, in 1987 he would come out of retirement to fight Hagler for the WBC-IBF middle weight championship of the world. Leonard would fight for the title and glory, Hagler for the respect he claimed he deserved.

This fight clearly sums up what is taking place with the Delta's and Sigma Gamma Rho. Last spring, the Delta's took us back to the motherland where they gathered all sources and took the stage with a presence which was a force to be reckoned with. Nevertheless, the Rho's with their tribute to strong black leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. would not fall easily. The Delta's swung and jabbed while Sigma Gamma Rho bobbed and weaved but still refused to go down. And at the ringing of the bell which ended round one, the ladies of Delta would stand victorious and become once again the new step show champs. But like Ali off the ropes in the 1974 fight vs Frazier, the Rho's would regroup. They would go back to basics, trace their history and do a great deal of soul searching as they were destined to win back the title.

And in the 1993 Homecoming performance, they did just that. Sigma Gamma Rho broke their chains, undawned their sunglasses, stepped into the spotlight and put on one of the greatest performances in recent memory as they brought the crowd time and time again to their feet. Every step was electrifying. Every move, better than the last, and every roar from the crowd, louder than the last. When the smoke cleared and the dust settled, there were new champs in town: their names, Sigma Gamma Rho. The Delta's, much like Marvelous Marvin Hagler, were marvelous and fought a damn good fight, but in round two the Rho's were striving for a title and glory and they got it.

But wait—let's flip the script cause there's more. Three groups of gentlemen all took three different roads, all wanting to end up in the same place which brought about a serious throw down.

For the dynamic cane slinging crusaders, it was no surprise—the Kappa's would excite us, as they took the stage soft and

mellow, smooth and sexy, and as Babyface would say "This is for the cool." From their ladies to their tuxedos, the Kappa's were strictly business adding that touch of class they always seem to possess. And even when technical difficulties dampened a performance we knew would have been smooth, the Kappa's showed poise, kept their calm, and still delivered a good show.

If MC Lyte is still looking for a roughneck, then she should have been at this year's step show where the hardcore, rugged, jamming, slamming, boot-knocking, sweat dripping, and every other adjective you could bring would not have described the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. They stepped, and stomped, and brought the roof down time and time again. And just when the audience thought it was over and safe to have a seat, the Alpha's brought out their high flying, ceiling touching tumbling show which would have the audience talking for days. While one brother sprinkled old gold dust on his Frat's to bring them back to life, unfortunately, it would not be enough to bring the Alpha's "three-peat."

This year's champs would come from the sideline, like a rookie quarterback waiting to get into the big game. The gentlemen of Phi Beta Sigma blew up once they got on stage. One brother said, "For so long people have been doubting our ability to step, but now as you can see, all doubt has been laid to rest." And so it shall, as they would put on a performance that would bring them what they had long waited for, a stepshow title, respect, and the silencing of all critics.

Phi Beta Sigma would step hard and perform smoothly while quietly dethroning the current champions. John McEnroe said it best when he returned from a two year retirement in 1986. "Before I was just average now I'm back and I have just won my first Grand Slam title, so what do you people have to say?"

It can clearly be said to all the Greeks

it is not about who wins or loses, but about unity, brotherhood and sisterhood among all. And on the night of the step show like always the unity here at Fayetteville State University is very strong. I personally take my hat off to each and everyone of you for a job well done.

Now Let's Talk

After sitting and talking with several members of the Greeks you all had this to say. "I feel the stepshow was an overall success and I would like to congratulate my sorors on a job well done," said Jennifer Lynn James of the Delta's. And if you were excited by the "Ladies of Distinction," thank Tonia Clare, a Delta who worked closely with that organization and created most of the steps.

When asked what thought ran through your mind, Stephen Charles of the Alpha's said, "My brothers as well as myself were ready to put on a good show, because we worked real hard." As I sat and joked with Anthony McCall of the Kappa's he simply said "I feel that show was well put together, and I would like to say 'great job' to the Rho's and they deserved to win."

While walking through the halls of the Science building, Willie J. Farmer of Phi Beta Sigma expressed what was on his mind: "We wanted to give a strong performance." When I asked him right before the judging was handed down, "How did you and your brothers feel?" he answered, "After all other performances, we still felt great about our chances and we know we had a great shot at winning." I told him this is your one shot to let everyone know how you feel, what do you have to say? "We are here, and yes we are for real?"

Tania L. McLeod, President of the Pan-Hellenic Council said she loved "the Zeta's new look and the poise they stepped with" as we sat and talked over a bite to eat. I asked her how did she feel when the Delta's took the stage? "When the Delta's took the stage my heart was on the floor."

And did you believe you all were strong enough to win? "Our new sisters worked very hard and wanted to win very much." As Tania talked more and more about her sisters, her smile became larger than life, and I could see the pride all over her face.

If Michael Jordan was the MVP of the NBA, and Joe Montana MVP of the NFL, then Nicole A. Gladden is surely the MVP of this year's step show. "No show could be without a theme and God," she said as we sat and talked in the Student Center. "We made a few mistakes but we fought through; back stage we prayed to come out sharp and strong; after last semester's loss we had a lot to prove to ourselves and everyone else." Throughout our conversation, Nicole was hesitant to talk about self and wanted to focus more on her sisters and how well they stepped. This was Nicole and Tania's last stepshow as Sigma Gamma Rho's here at Fayetteville State University, and I'm sure they will go on to bigger and better things. But I could not let Nicole get away without asking one final question. Do you think the Bulls can win without Jordan, and do you think the Rho's can win without you? As a girlish smile crossed her face, she looked down at a Sigma Gamma Rho pin she was wearing and said "Yes, they can win without me and they will repeat." Much like a storybook ending, she would walk away with all she could ask for, the title, the glory, the respect, and, most of all, braggin' rights.

To Nicole and every Greek that stepped the night of the stepshow, congratulations, all of you did great!

Anthony Jenkins is a Junior Criminal Justice major at FSU.

Appointment from page 1

dering our most valuable resource, our young people, at a rate no other nation would tolerate... If we want to make it, we've got to find a way to remind the rest of America that we are really all in this together — we cannot afford to have 11-year-olds thinking about their funerals. They should be thinking about their children."

Chuck Davis from page 1

chill of fear, apathy, and confusion. That spirit the audience took into their hearts and sheltered with their minds, for it was given with love.

To those who attended, relive that spirit and know that it will go away only when you have lost hold of it. To those of you who missed this awakening, worry not; just ask those who attended to share what they experienced with you.

Say "Ago" ... they'll respond "Amaa"!

Your Club's Name Could Be Here!

We want to know who's making things happen at FSU and in the surrounding community.

Read page 2 for more details!