

Homecoming '94: a 'mad flava' hit

By Bruce D. Copeland

ECSU's Homecoming 1994 was a week-long gathering of ECSU family members - alumni, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the University.

Sponsored by the '94-'95 Student Government Association, this Homecoming was one very much "long overdue," as one ECSU senior put it.

The unofficial theme for Homecoming was "Mad Flava" and people got their first taste on Sunday, Oct. 16 at the Gospel Extravaganza

held in Moore Hall Auditorium. This free event featured ECSU's Gospel Choir and Elizabeth City's Northeastern High School's Gospel Choir, both of whom put on dynamic performances.

"It was a nice collaboration," said ECSU senior Lynn Jordan, (Miss ECSU.) "Socially, it was an outstanding example of ECSU joining hands with the community and making a difference. And it also proved that young adults can assemble for positive reasons and have a good time without the negative influences of drugs and alcohol."

The "flava" continued on Monday, Oct. 17 at the Comedy Show in Moore Hall Auditorium.

"Your glasses are so thick that when you look at a map, you can see people wavin'," said host Rob Stapleton to one a member of the audience. Not even campus security could escape being joked.

The other comics for the night were Brooklyn Mike and Wil. Though some members of the audience were offended by the frequent use of profanity and sexual jokes, most seemed to thoroughly enjoy the show. Some students complained about having to pay \$3 for admission, however.

ECSU Sophomore Stacia McFadden had no problem with the admission price.

"I think the students at this school need to realize that elsewhere they would have had to pay much more for a concert like that," she said. "They (the comics) were good and I don't see any reason to complain."

On Tuesday, the well-decorated Williams Hall Gym was the place to be for the

Fashion Show, coordinated and co-hosted by ECSU Senior Raneesha Hunt. While Hunt and co-hostess Koya Staten made "the role call" it was quite clear that the ECSU sophomores were "in the house."

The show, which was divided into a variety of scenes, got off to a slow start. The tempo picked up quickly, however, during the club scene when two of the models appeared in outrageously wild outfits, sporting enough make-up and weave for everyone on stage.

"Sheryl and Cypress stole the show," said one ECSU senior. "What they had on is what I expect in a fashion show - stuff that's extravagant, off-the-wall, completely far-out."

The show also consisted of a school spirit scene, a business scene, and a show-stopping wedding scene. Though there were a few gripes regarding the hosts, everyone seemed to agree that the models, who were mostly women, did a good job.

On Wednesday in Moore Hall Auditorium, jazz sensation Pieces of a Dream was the featured guest in the Lyceum Series Program.

"Congratulations to the Lyceum Committee for a job well done," said the MC for the show, Kimberly Pierce of 89.9 ECSU. "Pieces of a Dream put on an outstanding performance and afterwards they were really impressed with our recording studio and our radio station."

On Thursday night the talent show in Moore Hall Auditorium began about 45 minutes late.

Despite the late beginning, there was standing room only. SGA officers and the talent show committee had to work overtime admitting and seating everyone. ECSU senior Allen Mason delighted the crowd with the welcome and the introduction of the judges. MCs for the night were ECSU's Carl "Big Daddy" Hines and Nikita Sutton. Big Daddy opened the show singing Luther Vandross' "A House Is Not A Home."

Early in the show it started storming outside but many audience members were more disruptive than the weather.

Several students said they were surprised by the participation of a non-black

performer, ECSU Senior Suzanne Wescott who sang a gospel tune.

"She's got a lot of nerve," said one ECSU junior.

Other acts included Delphi, who were "representin' the sophomores (of ECSU); Perspective Voices, a talented trio of adolescent sisters from Elizabeth City; and Jus Da Fellas, a rap group from Norfolk.

"Jus Da Fellas were good," said one ECSU senior. "I think that they would have placed if we had had more peers as judges. One student judge is not enough."

Many students complained about Big Daddy's style.

"Nikita did a good job as MC but Big Daddy wasn't an appropriate choice for the show," said an ECSU junior. "Smurf (Allen Mason) should've done the show with Nikita instead of him."

The show was pretty long and much of

insulting to the audience and the audience responded accordingly.

"Jeru was a total waste," said one ECSU junior.

Following Jeru was Patra who, along with her dancers, entertained some and offended others with numerous verbal and physical references to female genitalia.

"They were so nasty," said one ECSU junior.

R&B group Zhane capped off the show with a well-received performance, for which most of the crowd stayed on its feet.

Despite the tardiness and offensiveness of some of the performers, the crowd seemed pleased with the performances. "It's about time we had a good concert," said one ECSU senior.

The concert's 1600 tickets sold were

"This Homecoming Week was the best. I'm glad I was

Colleen Santos

the crowd was gone by the time the winners were announced. Third place and free Homecoming Concert tickets went to ECSU's Mike Marshall and Charles Williams performing as Standard.

Male doo-wop group Dedication won second place and five free hours in ECSU's recording studio. And a quintet of lovely female Vikings known as Essence of Blackness won first prize and \$50 singing X-Scape's "Tonight."

Carlton Ely, talent show coordinator, said he was very pleased with the outcome. "I had an outstanding committee and together we met the goal of making the crowd happy," he said.

Friday's concert was both a triumph and a disaster. First of all, the line outside the Vaughan Center before the concert was incredibly long due in part to the ticket booth not being open. Secondly, the doors opened over an hour late; this caused much discomfort and fight number 1. Finally, the concert itself began two and a half hours late.

The late beginning was due to two of the acts getting lost on their way to Elizabeth City, according to SGA President Tarik Scott.

The show finally began with D.S., a former Viking followed by ECSU's Darkman, and a last minute substitution, Ghetto Cartel. Then came the first national act of the night, The Fugees who "rocked the house" using the music of several popular rap and dance hall songs.

In between acts, fights number 2 and number 3 broke out. Once security handled the matters the show continued with Jeru Da Damaja. His crew was very

twice the number of last year. Also, the advanced ticket sales were the highest in years.

The final day of Homecoming Week '94 began with the parade through downtown Elizabeth City. Later, the Viking football team lost a hard fought battle to Virginia State University, 14 -0. And finally, in the Vaughan Center the Annual Fall Step Show and Dance took place.

Supposedly co-sponsored by ECSU's Pan Hellenic Council and the SGA, the latter ended up doing most of the work Saturday night. The show began with an ill-received and vulgar performance by DJ Flexx. Afterwards, the MCs, Bruce D. Copeland and Valerie "Cap" Boulden, apologized for the various delays in starting the show and for DJ Flexx's performance.

The step show began with all eight of ECSU's Greek-letter sororities and fraternities.

"It was pretty good but I was a little disappointed," said ECSU junior Terry Wills. "It always seems like some of the fraternities and sororities don't put their all into the Fall step show because it's not an official contest."

Immediately following the show was a crowd-pleasing performance by the singing group Average Guyz.

The evening ended with the dance in Vaughan Center.

The entire night "was good but hot," said one ECSU sophomore. "There was just too many people in there (the Vaughan Center)."

Most students seemed to feel Homecoming Week '94 was a success.

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