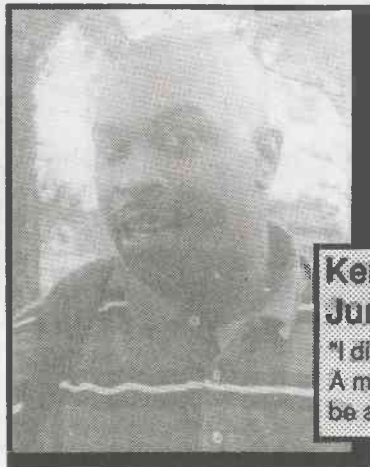
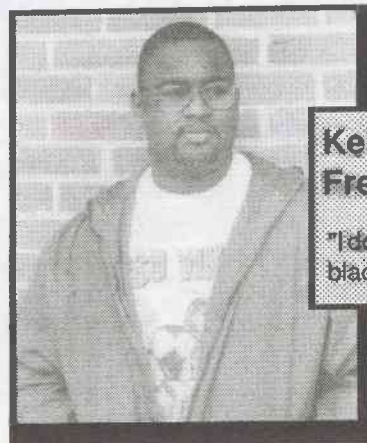


# Talk of ECSU:

Do you agree with the current policy of excluding mothers from the Miss ECSU contest?



**Kenneth Douglas Junior, Greensboro, NC**  
 "I disagree. If she is a mother then she's already a queen. A mother is a role model. If she can raise a child, she can be a queen."



**Keith White Freshman, Williamston, NC**  
 "I don't agree with it. It's just like saying because I'm black I can't be president."

**Anna O'Brien Sophomore, Nairobi, Kenya**  
 "I disagree because I am a mother. If we can let mothers come in to school I don't see why they can't have that freedom."



**Jemifer Nooney Junior, Currituck, NC**  
 "It's preposterous to exclude mothers from the Miss ECSU pageant. It shouldn't matter what their family status is if they represent the qualities Miss ECSU stands for."



## GUEST COLUMN

*Writer offended by rude students*

# Talent show like a 'Night at the Apollo'

by Lynn Marshall

The April 17 talent show held by the SGA in Moore Hall was lewd, crude, and wild, like a night at the Apollo. The contestants brave enough to face the rambunctious crowd had to compete with the ongoing party in the audience to be heard.

The ringleader of the nights festivities was Damond Nollan whose primary function seemed to be keeping the party between acts jumping. He seemed more interested in getting people out to the step show Saturday night than doing the job at hand, which was to introduce the contestants. By the time the show finally started—forty five minutes late—the crowd was more interested in getting their own groove on than in watching the talent show.

Reggie Mckinney opened with a moving solo performance of "Forever My Lady." His performance, however, was in vain since the crowd decided to sing along with him and drown him out. Mckinney was the night's first victim of the inadequate sound system which magnified anything above a speaking voice into ear-splitting distortion.

Two wannabe rappers were next. Thank god for the lousy sound since it spared the audience the torture of listening to these two. The only under-

standable, printable words, were, "Check it out." You'd think, with as much Hilfiger and Reebok gear present on this campus, these two would have at least dressed the part. The rag-tag duo looked as though they just woke up. This is not the best ECSU has to offer.

Through cries of "Sing it sister," and "Shut up!" Jacinda Taylor sang a moving spiritual to the crowd. Except for the occasional shout, this was the most quiet the audience would be. While Taylor sang an odd hush fell over the audience. Even the M.C. recognized the significance, and quickly whipped the audience back into a frenzy with the help of morning deejay Greg Sampson of WRVS.

Thankfully, no one booed after the spiritual—a fact duly noted by the M.C.

"Ya'll know better than to boo during a spiritual" he said. "They say we don't know how to act, we didn't even tell you not to boo."

High expectations with this crowd. Booing was just about the only thing they hadn't done so far. (I guess singing with contestants, talking through performances, and hollering for friends aren't disrespectful.)

Nollan went on to review the scoring process with the audience. "What do you do if you like somebody?" he

asked.

The audience clapped in answer.

"What do you do if you don't like somebody?"

The audience response? "BOOOO!!!"

The M.C. said, "no no," but having opened that can of worms, he couldn't get the lid back on.

Stephanie Pages sang another much needed spiritual. The sweet harmony between Veronica and Anglica as they sang "Shower Down On Me With Your Spirit" was lost in the clapping, stomping and talking of the crowd. Why is it so difficult for ECSU students to sit quietly and appreciate a performance?

Other acts featured a saxophone solo, more spirituals, and more rappers. A dance group called "Young But Good" will live on in infamy. Four young women dressed in short denim cutoffs and white blouses tied at the waist pushed past the limits of good taste. These straight-faced women pumped, humped, and thrust themselves as if their lives depended on it. You'd think all that bumping and grinding should at least bring them some pleasure; however, their expressions remained stony throughout.

What was the selection criteria for this tacky show?

The contestants shared the stage with

the choral risers and backdrops left-over from the Honors Convocation. Why were there no streamers, signs, or colored lighting for this festive occasion? A talent show is a celebration of student talent. There was not a single banner in the Hall to proudly announce this as the "Viking Fest Talent Show."

Are these details considered unimportant by the SGA? The signs could have been done for free in the computer lab. Crepe paper only cost a couple of dollars, and the Little Theater would have probably lent their colored filters for the lights. But of course all of this would have required some effort.

The SGA is responsible for providing student leadership. However, the SGA president seemed more interested in collecting the \$2 fee than in monitoring the show as he sat on a table by the door with his money box.

What happened? The zoo atmosphere of the talent show was shameful. A talent show is an opportunity for students to share their individual and unique talents with their peers. The students who have taken the time to put together a performance should be given the respect they deserve.