

Showcase '97: candidates 'follow the yellow brick road' to a new queen

by Tiffany Newell

In the wake of Miss ECSU Kim Jones' resignation, three other candidates competed for the crown at the Miss ECSU Showcase on March 25 in Moore Hall Auditorium.

The contestants, Fredrika Celicia Simons, LaTonya Wilson, and Delicia Antoinette Wright displayed their physical beauty as well as their talents and oratorical skills.

The candidates also had to field questions like, "Is it true what you don't know won't hurt you?" during the question and answer section of the show.

"Knowledge is the key to success," said Wilson.

Delicia Wright's response was, "Education remains the key to both economic and political empowerment."

Simons believes that if people don't hear or know about gossip, then it won't hurt them. However, if the gossip is damaging to that person, "what you don't know will hurt you."

White columns, gold tinsel and a checkered black and white floor decorated the stage in Moore Hall Auditorium. This year's theme, "Following the Yellow Brick Road To a New Queen" was based on the theme of last year's coronation, "An Evening on the Yellow Brick Road."

The event was marred by many members of the audience who shouted rude comments about the women on stage, criticizing their clothes, speech and performances.

Valerie Bolden, Mistress of Ceremonies, asked the audience to show respect.

"It's a lot of hard work for these la-



Delicia Wright sings a gospel song, "Before I Tell Them," in the Miss ECSU Showcase, 97. Wright was elected Miss ECSU in the April election.

dies to get up here," said Bolden. "So show some respect."

Despite Bolden's request, members of the audience continued making rude

comments.

In the first part of the showcase, Bolden said that the showcase was canceled because no one would rise to the

position of Miss ECSU. Unaware that this was apart of the program, students began to walk out of the auditorium, until the three contestants arose from the audience and made their way to the stage. The candidates then introduced themselves to the audience.

In addition to displaying their beauty and talent, the contestants also modeled business attire. LaTonya Wilson, modeled a two-piece purple suite. Delicia Wright strutted her stuff in a lime green and navy blue pants suite. Fredrika Simons waltzed down the runway in a brown and creme two-piece ensemble with brown snake skin shoes.

During the speech section of the showcase, candidates were required to develop a three-minute speech on an assigned topic.

The question dealt with the inability to enforce rules and regulations' effect on a violator's behavior.

"A lack of discipline leads to chaos, chaos leads to anarchy, anarchy leads to destruction," said LaTonya Wilson. "Discipline, rules and are the key components of an organized society."

"In a civilized society, a main component and essential tool for maintaining order is the law," said Wright. It is indeed the law that binds society together. If those charged with task of maintaining order are unwilling to do so effectively, what effect will that have on crime in America?

"If rules are not enforced and violators are not afraid to break the law, they will continue to commit the same,

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Vikings win \$27 thousand in All-Star Tourney

by Michael Lytle

Five ECSU students won \$27,000 dollars for the University in the Eighth Annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge, a National Championship Tournament held March 22-26 at the Walt Disney Hilton in Orlando Fl.

The ECSU team won second place, defeating teams from larger universities like Howard, Prairie View A&M, and defending champion Florida A&M. The \$27,000 will go towards the school's general scholarship program, according to team coach, Derrick Wilkins.

Team members were faced with questions from a wide variety of subjects—science, literature, history, pop culture, and current events.

Team members were Vincent Lawson, a sophomore biology major from Richmond VA; James C. Martin III, a senior political science major from Ahoskie NC; Shaunell McMillian, a junior history major from Virginia Beach VA; Phillip Puryear, a senior English major from Tobaccoville NC; and Ahmad Ward, a senior Art/business administration. major from Elizabeth City.

Team members expressed pride about the second-place win.

Lawson said he was pleased with the victory because it would "dispel a lot of misconceptions about HBCUs.

"We are a small University, but we have just as many competitive and in-

telligent students as the larger universities," Lawson added.

"It was an enriching academic experience for all of us," said McMillian. "Our performance says a lot about the academic achievement here at ECSU."

"To defeat the defending champions was a real confidence builder for us," said Ward.

"Our performance in the tournament helped in raising the program's profile and gives us that positive national recognition the school deserves," said Martin who scored the highest number of points in the tournament.

The Vikings faced Howard University in the semifinals on Tuesday, March 25, winning 265-170.

In the final round the Vikings squared off against Alabama A&M for the All-Star championship. In a closely fought contest, Alabama A&M finally seized control and ended the Vikings' quest for that National Championship.

Each team member was rewarded with a Honda Campus All-Star Challenge letterman jacket.

"This is a wonderful experience for anyone who enjoys competition," said Ward. "Honda offered VIP treatment to all of the competitors."

Last year was the first national tournament for competing campuses. Before that, the competition was regional with the championship contest held in Norfolk, VA.