

Homecoming 97:

Fashion, talent shows 'da bombs!' of the week

by Kimberly Hines

Homecoming '97 began with a bang as students sang, stomped, and clapped with the Essence of Praise Gospel Choir on Sunday, Oct. 5 in Moore Hall auditorium.

Hosted by Michael Marshall, a 1997 alumnus and former student director of the choir, the gospel concert helped set the mood for the week's events.

On Monday, Oct. 6, students piled into Moore Hall auditorium once again for a fashion show that many said they had long anticipated.

"I knew that the fashion show was going to be da bomb!" said Ronel Brewer, a model for the event. "Darryl Turner (who organized the show) knew what he was doing."

"The ambiance aof the show left me speechless," said Pantina Murrell.

SGA President Tamara McCray said she was pleased by student reaction to the show.

"The fashion show was the best that I have ever seen in my four years here," she said. "The auditorium was packed."

Apollo Night, the next evening's event, also packed the house. It was hosted by Jerome Wilson, who mimicked Showtime at the Apollo host Steve Harvey. Students were ready to boo and cheer their peers, hoping to get a glimpse of the "Sandman" every now and then, or see Andrea Harvey strut her stuff like The Apollo's model, Kiki Shepard.

Apollo Night, the Fashion Show, and the Gospel Concert got students pumped up and ready to party at the Wednesday night Block Party/cookout. However, many students said they were disappointed when the music was turned off at 11:00 p.m.

"I got all dressed up and went over there and it was over," said India Rhodes, a senior at ECSU.

The confusion grew out of a mistake in fliers advertising the event, according to McCray.

"Regretfully, it was printed on the fliers that the Block Party would begin at 10 p.m.," said McCray, "but the time intended was for 8 til 11 p.m. Elizabeth City has a noise ordinance, which goes into effect at 11 p.m., so we had to turn the music off."

For Thursday night's Comedy Show, SGA booked Talent, X-Man, and Dean Edwards to perform with a fee of \$8.00 for students and \$10.00 for the public. However, SGA canceled the fee after 9:30 PM when only a few people had showed up to pay.

"SGA was really disappointed with the outcome of the comedy show," said

McCray. "We lost a tremendous amount of money that night."

According to McCray, SGA spent approximately \$8,000 on the comedy show and earned only \$268.

Friday night's step show brought alumni back to their alma mater to see their fraternities and sororities represented. The Sigma Gamma Rhos opened the Fall Step Show, followed by the AKAs, the Deltas, a joint performance of the Sigmas and Zetas; then the Alphas, and the Kappas performed.

According to McCray, the step show earned \$10,878, which will be split 60-40 between SGA and the Pan-Hellenic Council (40 percent).

Following the step show, SGA sponsored a dance in Williams Hall Auditorium.

Saturday's events began early in the morning with the annual Homecoming Parade through Elizabeth City. In the afternoon football game, the Viking football team endured a painful loss to Bowie State.

That evening, SGA sponsored a concert in the Vaughan Center with rap sensation, KRS-One and Junkyard, a Go-Go Band out of Washington, D.C. The event was scheduled to begin at 10 p.m.

"Unfortunately, we did not get started until midnight," said McCray of the concert. "Many people were upset and we were disappointed, but it could not have been helped."

According to McCray, the promoters were the reason for the lateness.

Despite the disappointments of the week's events and the evening's events, "the concert was a success, I think," said McCray. "Many students enjoyed the concert, especially Junkyard." Junkyard was still performing when students began to pile in for the dance.

"I had fun at the concert, even though there were only two acts," said ECSU student Shaunell McMillan "I think it was successful despite that."

According to McCray, the Concert made approximately \$10,000. Homecoming week generated approximately \$22,500 total income, she added. However, SGA ended up with an approximate \$7,500 deficit, after expenses.

Since profit from homecoming usually finances Viking Fest, several students wondered if that event would take place.

However, McCray said that with organizational support and student support, Viking Fest can still happen.

"It's up in the air," she said. "It depends on the students' support of SGA fund raisers. With student support, it can be done."



Terrell Silver, winner of Apollo Night, sings "Never Make a Promise," by Dru Hill.



Zaarenetta Labre Williams shows off her recyclable wear in the Fashion Show, held Nov. in Moore Hall.