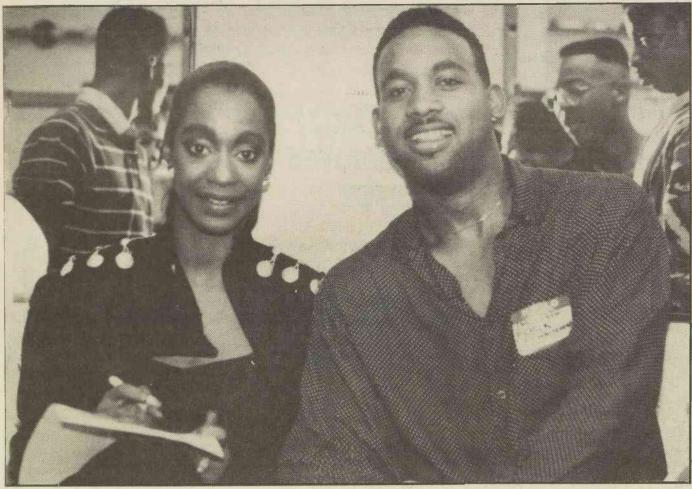
MEMORIES OF HOMECOMING 1989



Recording Artist Regina Belle poses with WSSU student Derick Whitehead



photo by: Tuttle

Regina Belle Rocks The House

by Craig Thomas

To kick off this year's Lyceum Cultural Events Program series, an outstanding performance by stylish, rhythm and blues songtress Regina Belle rocked K. R. Williams Auditorium.

Aftera35minutedelay,Belleopened the show with a soaring rendition of her first hit, "Show Me the Way", from her debut LP, ALL BY MYSELF. Dressed to perfection in a stunning, figure-fitting, redandsilversequinedevening gown,she fascinated the audience as she showcased a fine display of her vocal capabilities.

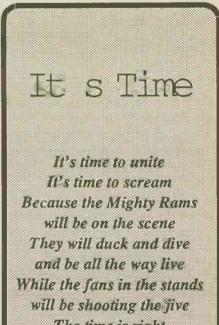
"I'm tired, this dress is tired, these lights are hot," she told the audience before presenting her next song. Despite her comments, she still pumped bursts of energyandemotioninto"SoManyTears", which she dedicated to her husband. Backedbyhertwoimpressivebackup singers, whom she referred to as her "divas", the petite powerhouse sang her heart out and completely charmed the audience with her unique stylings of gospelundertonesmixed withrhythmand blues and a touch of jazz. described as "1989 blues."

She then surprised the audience with a medley of songs dating from the 60s to the present. "In order to know wherewe'regoing in the future, we must know about our past first," she gave as the reason for composing the medley. "Sweet Love", "Don't Ask My Neighbor", "Midnight Train To Georgia" and "Respect", were songs in the medley.

Perhapsthehighlightoftheevening was a duet entitled, "All I Want is Forever". Althoughthesongoriginally featured James"J.T."Taylor (formerly of Kool and the Gang) singing the male lead, his absence was well-compensated for by Belle's musical director, Christopher Walker. The audience was mesmerized as the two displayed perfect vocal harmonies accompanied by intimate even humorous scenes of romantic bliss.

"Now it's showtime," Belle announced and immediately she went into her final act of the evening, singing "Baby Come To Me", her latest hit. Currently, this hit has been holding the number two position on the music national charts.

ManyofBelle'sfansliketocompare her tosultry singer, Anita Baker. As one of her fans stated, "Belle like Baker, create "mellow music to the ears.'" On the other hand, Belle sees no need for competition between the two of them. "Anita is a friend of mine, she is somebody who's up there with class." "However, Anita is who she is and Regina is who she is. I think people can make the distinction, but as long as criticshave somebody to compare us to, they will. But as long as you're being compared to the best, why complain?"



EuGenia Caroline Williamson, Miss WSSU^{photo by: Tuttle} Johnson, Mr. RAM at the 1989 Coronation Program.

As her performance continued, she sang "Good Lovin", an up-tempo dance tune and then changed the tempo to a slower more relaxed pace when she slid into "What Goes Around", a song she The time is right The time is now When the red & white will stand out proud Come one, come all HOMECOMING means It's time to have a ball

-JEM