

Homecoming 1989

Controversy Surrounds Awarding of MR. RAM-1989 Title

by Craig Thomas,

Excitement and controversy surrounded the 15th Annual Mr. Ram Pageant held on October 10th, in the K. R. Williams Auditorium.

The event, which is annually sponsored by the Student Activities/Student Union Program Board, presented six young men in a dazzling showcase of talent, fashion and speech. The theme for this year's pageant was "I'm That Type of Guy".

According to Brian Drake, assistant coordinator of the pageant, the theme was chosen because "this adage exemplifies in a nutshell the positive images and role models they (contestants) portray. These images have made the tradition of excellence continue here at WSSU, and have made this pageant an enormous success for the past 15 years." Drake and Kevin Ross served as the hosts for the event and Tanya Wiley served as hostess.

The show opened with the contestants doing a dancer routine to M.C. Hammer's "Turn This Muttha Out", and then they introduced themselves to the audience. This year's contestants were: Tim Sanders, 19, a sophomore majoring in mass communications; Barry Johnson, 22, a junior majoring in political science and economics; Darrin Todd, 22, a sophomore majoring in commercial music and music education; Giovanni Bass, 21, a junior majoring in psychology and biology; Danny McSpadden, 21, a senior majoring in social studies education; and Dewayne Brown, 21, a junior commercial music major.

The seven judges for this year's pageant included: David Allen, Cheryl Harry, Michael James, Linda Parker, Anthony Ragland, Cecil Summers and Angela Wright. Each contestant was

judged on personal appearance, grooming, general taste, color harmony, physique, personality and poise. They were also judged on the degree or difficulty of their talent, the ability to perform, articulation and the ability to think on their feet.

The creative wear segment was appealing to the crowd, but by far the most enthralling portion was the talent competition. Gospel music seemed to be the norm this year. Darrin Todd performed a unique version of Donna Summer's spiritual, "Forgive

Me", as he used sign language to communicate in addition to his singing. While Dewayne Brown displayed a fine array of vocal ranges in "More Like Jesus," Danny McSpadden really sent shock waves through the audience when he delivered "The Center of My Joy."

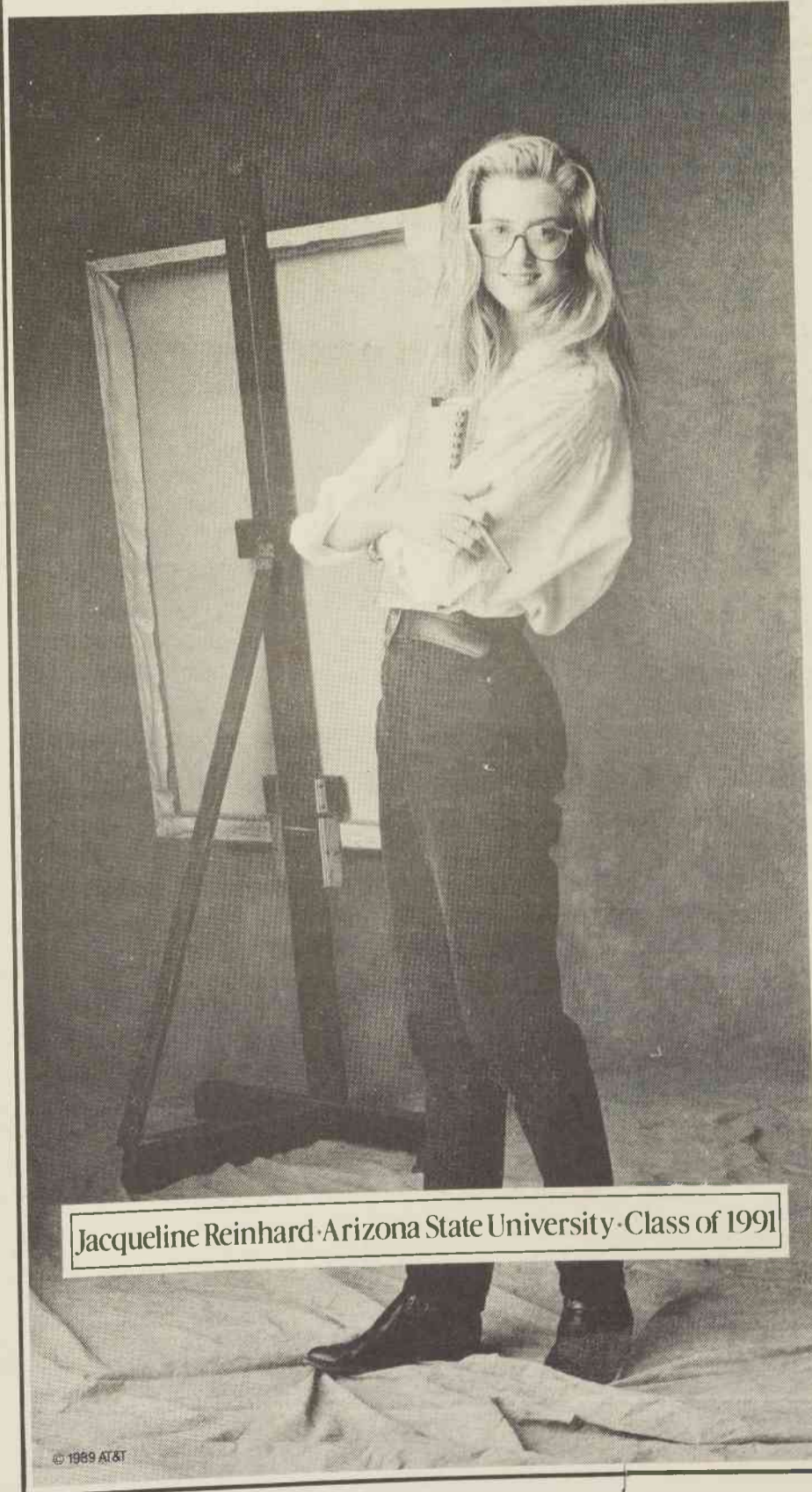
Of course, gospel was not the only form of talent presented in this year's pageant. Accompanied by a series of fancy dance movements, Tim Sanders did his version of "It's No Crime;" and Giovanni Bass performed the sexy classic, "Whip

It On Me"; both tunes by Babyface. Barry Johnson's moving monologue from A RAISIN IN THE SUN almost left the crowd teary-eyed.

During the self-expression category, no nervousness was apparent on the faces of the competitors, though some of their responses were long and some completely ignored the intended issue of the questions.

Finally, it was time for the final decisions of the night's program. Drake deliberately toyed with the audience in

"I may be an art major,
but I know
a little something
about economics."



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