

Third time's the charm

Belton-Brown crowned at ball

BY JERI YOUNG
THE CHRONICLE

More than 1,500 partiers crowded a hall at the Benton Convention Center Friday night for the official kickoff to Winston-Salem State University's homecoming celebration - the annual Alumni Homecoming Ball.

Women, decked out in designer gowns, mixed and mingled with men, dapper in suits and tuxedos.

And as legendary rhythm and blues groups the Delfonics and the Stylistics played hits from yesterday, hundreds of alumni floated from table to table to greet old friends and catch up on people unseen since the last homecoming.

But the night belonged to a group of dedicated women vying for the title of Miss Alumni. For months, the group had worked diligently, holding fund-raisers in their hometowns and calling on fellow alumni to make donations.

As the bands played and supporters looked on, the new Miss Alumni was crowned - hometown favorite Mosé Belton-Brown, a 1972 graduate.

The third time was the charm, a smiling Belton-Brown said.

"I've run twice before," she said. "Both times I was first attendant. This time I finally won."

Belton-Brown raised more than \$24,000 for the university

which will be used for scholarships and university programs. She said she raised the money through hard work and by calling on a few of her friends.

"I sent out letters to 500 of my closest friends asking them for donations," she said.

Belton-Brown also held a raffle and a "Little Mr. and Miss Ram Contest." She said she plans to use the title to boost the university's image. Belton-Brown said the recent national publicity the university received from being the college of the month on "The Tom Joyner Morning Show" has raised awareness.

Famous alumni as well as university Chancellor Alvin Schexnider were interviewed by Joyner on his early morning talk show and proceeds from a massive fund-raiser will benefit the university as well.

"That publicity was just great," Belton-Brown said. "So many more people know that we're out here now. Hopefully we'll be able to use that publicity to draw new students to the university. My plan is to be an ambassador for WSSU. I want to go out and recruit - and help raise money for the university."

But the contest wasn't all about money, participants said. Contestant Veronica Carter-Rozier, a 1990 graduate, said she hoped her run for the title would encourage other young alumni to participate in university-sponsored events.



Photos by Taniha Bailey

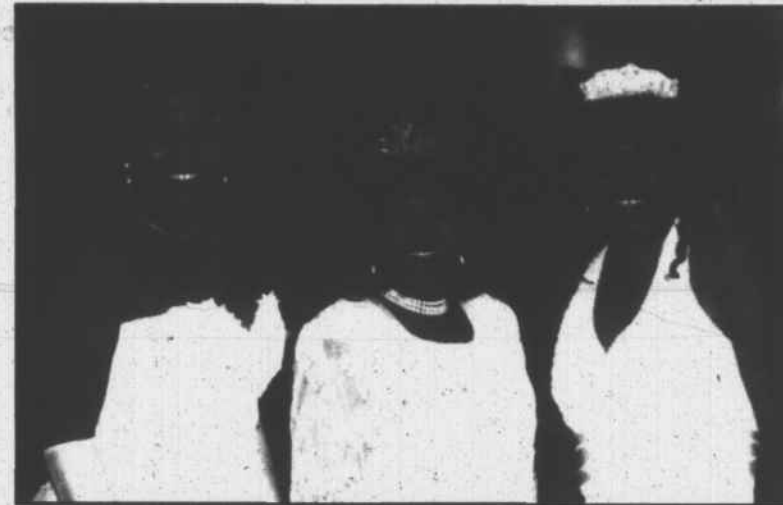
Alumni take to the dance floor during Winston-Salem State University's Homecoming Dance.

"I just wanted to try to get some momentum going and help close the gap between alumni and administration," she said. "All of the this, is just icing on the cake. The root of the competition is scholarships. I wanted to live an example of being a young alumna involved in the university."

Already, Carter-Rozier, who lives in Connecticut and is a member of the New York Alumni Chapter, has talked with Schexnider about ways to bring young alumni back to the fold.

"He seemed pretty open," she said. "I actually had a whole plan, which seemed to surprise him. My agenda has nothing to do with the negative publicity we've had. I wanted to know his agenda was for the university - how he planned to help the university

See Ball on A11



Vernonica Carter-Rozier, left, Mosé Belton-Brown and Nancy Lee Bell pose for the camera.

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Kernersville church to hold holiday market

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

First Presbyterian Church's eighth annual holiday market will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall at First Presbyterian Church, 611 Oakhurst Street in Kernersville.

The market will feature a brunch of breakfast casserole, fresh fruit cup, muffins, biscuits and beverages for \$3.50. Mrs. Winner's Chicken will donate biscuits and gravy. Brunch will be served restaurant-style by the youths and members of the church.

The market will also feature homemade cakes, quiches, pies, cookies, breads and other delicacies, as well as crafts, all handmade by members of the church: garden statue art, hand-thrown pottery, birdhouses, floral wreaths and arrangements, wooden casserole trays and wooden benches. Breakfast baskets, theme baskets and seasoning mix baskets also will be available.

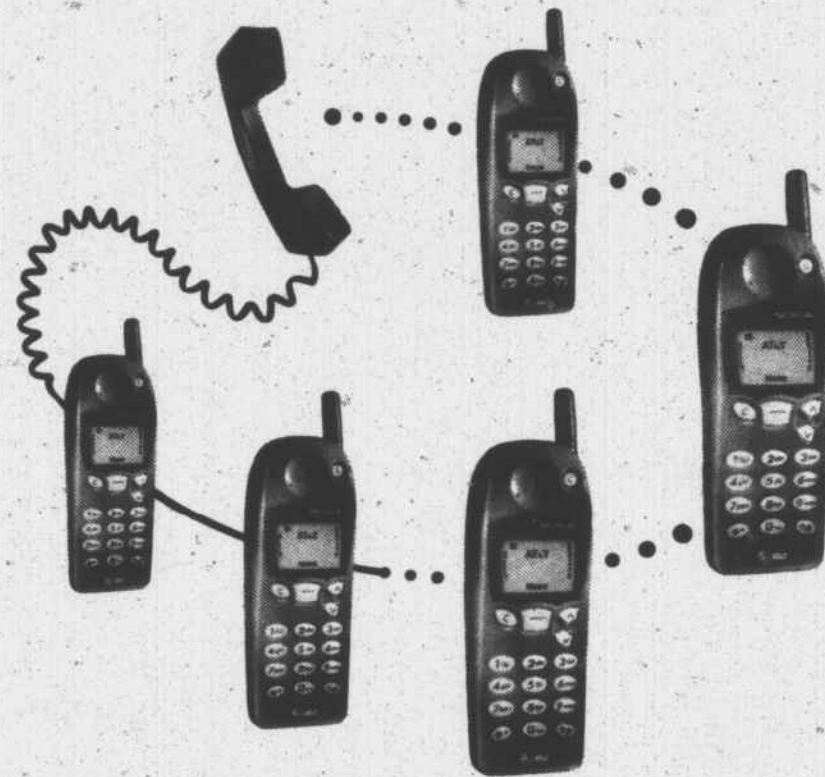
First Presbyterian Church in Kernersville, started the holiday market seven years ago, said Cheryl Gordon, chairperson of the market. "In those seven years, we have raised more than \$14,000. This year we hope to raise enough money to benefit two families in need, to assist other families with children at Brenner Children's Hospital and to help flood victims in Eastern North Carolina.

"The holiday market is very important to me and to our church," said Gordon. "It is one of the ways that First Presbyterian Church gives back to our community, through helping others. It is also an activity that unites members of our church and gives everyone an opportunity to show off their talents for a wonderful cause.

"We have members who have made sourdough bread and cakes each year. Others have hand-crafted wooden casserole holders from an antique pattern. From hand-painted garden art to jams, jellies, hand-thrown pottery and ornaments, we have members who are artisans in many different art forms and cuisines." But, she added, "I never want to leave out the faithful church and community members who attend each year, share brunch with us and do their Christmas shopping. They are the ones who really make this market a success."

"Every day we hear of tragic situations all across our state and the world, and we wish we could help. Here is something we can do, a way we can help. And we hope others will come to the market and join us in helping these families," Gordon said.

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