

The GRIOT

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Colorado State University

27th Annual Awards Ceremony

Danielle McConnell

The 27th annual awards ceremony was one to go down in history. The ceremony was beautifully put together and created an atmosphere fit for those being honored.

The start of the ceremony consisted of a buffet and guests being serenaded by jazz performances.

Once the guests were settled, Shannon Brown, winner of CSU idol sang the Black National Anthem, leaving the audience speechless.

She would later sing Hero, by Mariah Carey to honor the graduating seniors as they received their gifts.

The awards banquet is one that takes the time to honor not only outstanding students but also the faculty and staff that have done amazing things within the community and the Black/ African American Cultural Center itself.

Students are recognized for grade point averages of 3.0 and higher for the spring and/or fall semesters of 2010. This year there were close to fifty percent of the African American population that received this award.

Students were also acknowledged for outstanding athlete, outstanding freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior. Also the outstanding organization of the year, which is run through the Black/ African American Cultural Center was recognized.

As the ceremony came to a close, the seniors who will be leaving either in May or December were recognized.

The seniors received a gift with the first African American male and female graduates on it, and were honored with song, as previously stated, by Shannon Brown.

“There was not a dry eye on stage,” says Marcus Elliot, assistant director of the center.

Seniors were shocked at the special moment and even more surprised at just how many of them would be leaving in the very near future.

“I couldn’t believe how many of us there were, so many of my friends were on stage, and we are all leaving,” said one student.

The ceremony was a memorable event and one that I believe both student and faculty members will cherish for a long time. My only hope for next year is that the event be just as powerful and harmonious as it was this year.

Students deserve to be recognized and I believe this event is an amazing way to remind students that they are doing amazing things, and should continue to strive for excellence.



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Soul Food Gospel Fest

Brittany Sango

By the time 4:45 pm rolled around the Durrell Center was packed full of students and community members eagerly waiting in line for a taste of the first annual Soul Food Gospel Fest hosted by the Black African American Cultural Center.

The aroma of collard green, corn bread and ribs teased my nostrils as my friend and I stood in line awaiting our turn for plates to pile high with food.

I didn't know about anyone else, but I was very tempted to snatch a roll off one girl's plate as she slowly and carefully walked by with two plates of food because I didn't know how much longer I could take watching everyone else eat.

One line shuffled throughout Durrell's kitchen and quickly turned into two lines. Plates, silverware and cups clinked as people carefully maneuvered their way around picking up ice cream here, a roll there, more silverware there.

The objective of the gospel event was to bring the Fort Collins community together to share an aspect of the African American culture and to provide a gospel experience. According to the soul food presentation during the fest, soul food may have originated during the mid-1960s but dates back to slavery in the United States. Slaves learned how to cook leftover scraps from meals.



Entertainment began with the Abyssinian Church Christian Church Choir, and then proceeded with the Rising Star Baptist Church Praise Dancers, Rising Star Missionary and The House of Worship Center Choir. Each choir contributed its own unique sound to gospel.

The Baptist Church Praise Dancers used body movements to articulate the word and spirit of God. The pinnacle of the evening was Tyree and the Morris and the Hearts of Worship.

Through their unique blend of R&B and gospel flavor, they brought young and old people together. Cheers and laughter mixed with the beat as people swayed to the energetic music.

The B/AACC office would like to thank Dr. Malcolm Scott for graciously offering his recipes for meals, the Durrell Center for providing us a place to house the event, all the gospel choirs for blessing us with their wonderful voices and everyone who came out to support the gospel fest. It would not have been a success without you! And I would like to personally thank Dr. Scott for contributing to my weight gain goal. Thanks Dr. Scott!

As Eugene Daniels said in the soul food presentation, "Soul food is more than just a tradition. It represents family, tradition and the African American culture."

African Night

Brittany Sango

Little red and green African flags adorned the Lory Student Center hallways guiding people to the food court and the auditorium. The aroma of food from Uganda, Ethiopia and other countries wafted down the hall with an invisible finger beckoning me and my stomach to come closer and closer.

This year's African Night was another success despite the obstacle Africans United faced last year of having to charge an entrance fee for the event.

The LSC transformed into a cultural center where people from all over, mainly Fort Collins, Denver, and Aurora came to enjoy a taste of Africa.

For some, the event was a chance to dabble in something new. For others, this brought back memories of home and the opportunity to connect with their cultural roots.

I watched people form a line and gather their plates and utensils to prepare to make room for all the food to come. And then I watched as



Members of Africans United

Courtesy of: www.facebook.com

people went back for seconds and thirds.

This year's theme was a journey through the motherland where two rappers from the United States visited Africa on a quest to find something new for their music video.

During their journey through Africa, they encountered beautiful women from various countries each thinking her country was the best.

As the play unfolded, the audience was able to learn about each country's culture. African Night is an event that allows the opportunity for knowledge and understanding of African cultures.

It brings the community together in hopes that people will enjoy themselves and walk away with a full stomach, great entertainment and a great time overall.

Until Someone Wakes Up Reflection

Lauren Stewart

This past Friday a friend and I attended the sexual assault awareness play “Until Someone Wakes Up.” I had first heard about this play in a Greek leadership meeting when it was brought forth by one of the advisors, however, it was not until the small in-class presentation that I decided to sacrifice a Friday evening and support the other organizations on campus.

The play was simply amazing! I was so impressed at how they presented the issue of sexual assault. There were so many skits and metaphors that intrigued me and as a result I don’t know what to begin this discussion with. I’ll start with saying that I appreciated the balance between the funny and intense scenes.

I think it is extremely important to incorporate some comedy because sexual assault is such a controversial and touchy issue. There were many intense scenes that triggered an emotional response from me. The first scene that comes to mind was one that was performed by some of the male actors.

The guys were at someone’s house playing some sort of shooting game. I couldn’t quite tell if it was a street game or a military game, but I just remember one of the boys mentioning an upcoming target. She was an innocent female that happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The words “Two rounds...three rounds...eight rounds” echo in my head as the boy shouted out with excitement how many bullets he used to kill her. This scene really sticks in my mind because it shows the indecency that men can treat women with.

Oftentimes women are treated as meaningless objects and I think the scene portrays how men show no mercy in their feelings towards women.

In another scene, one of the female characters told a story of how she was raped. Throughout the story, she kept saying things like “he didn’t mean it, it wasn’t rape, or it didn’t happen.” All of these phrases

equaled out to one thing: denial. It seemed like she spent so much time debating and trying to create an excuse as to why what happened to her was not rape.

When she finally passed her state of denial, she talked about how she just cried, but since she had not told anybody about the incident, no one heard her cry.

She used the metaphor of a crying baby to describe herself in saying “I just felt like crying until someone wakes up.” I really liked how that tied in and explained the title of the play.

I thought it was interesting because I’ve felt like that sometimes, without being sexually assaulted. It shows how dramatic events can cause some to yearn for the kind of care and devoted attention that babies receive. Overall, this scene really just had me silent after the lights faded out.

Aside from the sad stories, the play also highlighted some other important concepts. They touched on the effect of gender roles in society with a skit about the classic “Barbie and Ken” The play also contained many skits showing that rape is not always violent like the scenes we see in movies.

It can be transparent and happen so smoothly, especially with the ones that you trust. Rape has no preference, it happens to both men and women of every ethnicity all of the time. I learned that a rape occurs every forty-five seconds, that’s less than a minute.

During the discussion we did an activity in which you tried to grab someone’s thumb with your palm while another person did the same with yours. I feel it is extremely important to talk and pass along the awareness about sexual assault because it is constantly occurring and anyone somewhere can’t go to sleep with the same peace of mind as I can.

Post-Drag Show

By Jess Cytron, President of SOGLBT (Student Organization for Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Queer and Allied People) of CSU

Well, now that the drag show is over and done with, I must say, “WHEW!” A giant exhale. The show took a lot out of me, but the results were entirely worth it. I feel like the drag show in itself is made of several components, all of which are 100% necessary for the show’s success.

These components consisted of us, the officers of SOGLBT, our dedicated members, our faculty advisor, advertising, decorations, hosts/MCs, our volunteers, CSU PD, Event Planning, and one KICK ASS audience.

Did I mention yet that we had over 1200 people show up for our show? We could only allow in around 1000, but how incredible is that? The amount of support and awareness this show raised is just one of the many reasons we put on the drag show twice a year.

In fact, it surprised me how many people began to flow into the GLBT resource center after our show. People of all walks of life, walking

in, to show more support, become educated on our community, and figure out what exactly it was that they saw on that special Saturday night.

In addition to the rise in awareness and support from the CSU and Fort Collins community, our drag show also raised an incredible amount of money for the Northern Colorado AIDS Project. Our donations will provide over 100 HIV tests for those in need. This, to many, is perhaps the most important outcome of SOGLBT’s Spring Drag show.

And the positives don’t stop there. Each and every performer on that stage got to feel something truly magical that night. The spotlight, the raging fans, everything just culminates into one giant message sent to every queer and allied person there: that they are all fireworks, and all deserve to shine. To me, that is why I work so hard on the drag show every semester. It makes us smile, and for this community, that is something we truly need.

A Letter To Love

Epikk

A Dedication to Something that's Seldom to Believe in ...

Dear Love...

You took a grip from Me through these years that I have walked on this earth ...

The effort I put towards finding you in someone else..

My results was that someone else found it in someone that wasn't looking for you at all ...

*You took me through hell's roller coaster Jus to find heaven sent and I feel as if I'm riding Front
Seat ...*

A glance of opportunity would be at hand on a pit stop and the ride continues ...

I Don't Understand what I have done to you Personally ...

Was it that hearts I've broken in the Past ...

More as if the Payback on others that have broken My Heart before them ...

But the ones I've shattered, are in a better position that where I stand ...

In with you and Happy, but when I'm trying to approach you overlook Me ...

I feel Like God has Skipped Me on the chance to smile in your face ...

I feel empty hearted ...

Cold hearted and Dumb but this that conquers Me only makes Me hot headed ...

I made a lot of crucial mistakes in order for you to be distant ..

But as a Man; I jus want you to flow through my veins as these words flow on this page ...

I know it's going to take time but time is all I left ...

*So I'm willing to use time Looking for you Because I know there is someone out there that You
written all over her.. for Me...*

I just want to Be Felt ...

Overall I jus want to Be Loved ...

I hope you know that this is real ...

I can't Put it any other way...

So I hope You have someone write back to this with a Easy response of " I'm here For You" ...

I'll Be Waiting ...

Colorado State University

Black/African American Cultural Center

204 Lory Student Center

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MAY 2011

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