

Ebony Man Showcase a smash

Good food and good fun helped raise money for local charities

Brooke Bryant
for the Emerald

A roomful of screaming women showed up Saturday night to ogle half-dressed men, pay for their company and eat a catered dinner—all for charity, of course.

A primarily female crowd of 150 people filled a banquet room in the Casanova Center to celebrate the University's men of color in The Ebony Man Showcase, a combination dinner, fashion show and date auction sponsored by the Black Women of Achievement.

And while much of the event may have been light-hearted, its goals were quite serious, organizers said.

"The main goal of it all is to highlight positive African American males on the U of O campus," said sophomore Kim Jabbe, one of the event's organizers. "The second goal is to raise money for BWA and for local children's charities."

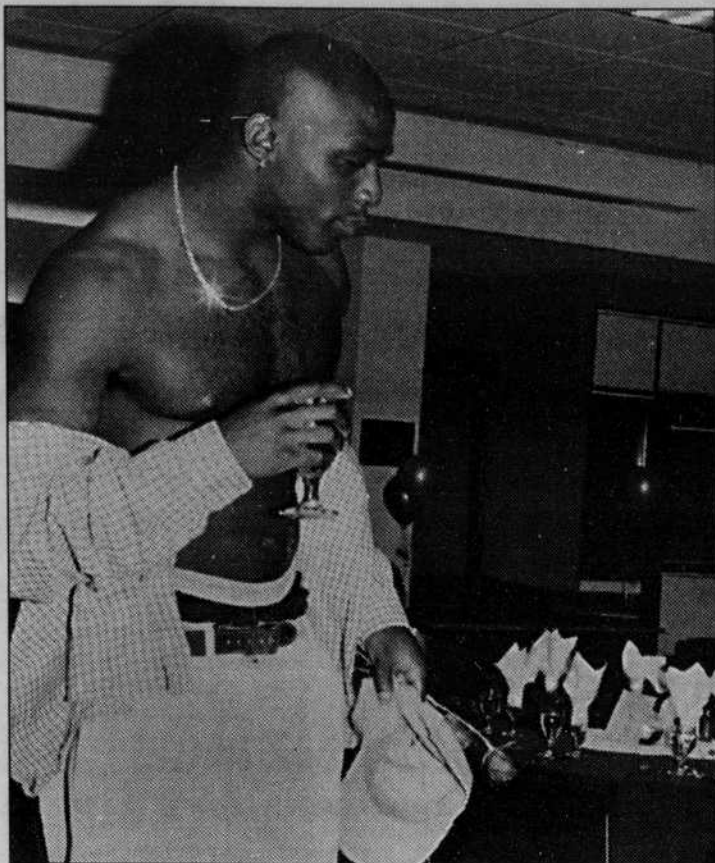
Half the money raised at Saturday's fundraiser will be donated to local charities, and half will go to help fund BWA's final event of the year, a women's empowerment dinner.

The night got off to a raucous start with a four-part fashion show. Seventeen men—most of them student athletes—took to the runway in sportswear, "personal choice," pajama and evening-wear categories. The dress ranged from formal wear to a pair of boxers or boxer briefs.

Many of the women in the audience admitted they had mixed motives in attending.

"I came to support BWA, but also to get a good night of entertainment and see hot guys," student Bola Majekobaje said.

During the fashion show, the men were asked to respond to



Jeff Stockton/Emerald

Reuben Droughns entertains the audience shortly before he was auctioned off for \$73.

questions ranging from, "If you were a non-alcoholic beverage, what would you be?" to "What advice would you give a young man entering college?"

Cupid Alexander, a Western Oregon State student, had the most popular response. His assertion that, "Women are like diamonds. They're all cut differently, but they're all beautiful," was greeted with screams and whistles of appreciation from the audience.

During the formal wear portion of the show, women in the audience bid on the models using Monopoly money they had bought earlier in the night. The highest bidder won the right to sit with the model during dinner and then have a picture taken with him to immortalize the moment.

Bidding was especially heated over Ducks running back Reuben Droughns, who did his part for the cause by shedding his shirt, splashing himself with water and parading down the runway with a rose clenched between his teeth. Droughns went for \$7,300 in Monopoly money, the equivalent of \$73.

"I'd do anything for charity, but I didn't expect it to be so hyper," said Droughns, who also stripped down to spandex shorts in the pajama scene. "I didn't expect to do all the things I did."

The only models to make more than Droughns were basketball players Freddie Jones, Alex Scales and Yasir Rosemond, who came as a package deal and went for the equivalent of \$85.

International Night

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stand the meaning of the performance."

Djamaludin also enjoyed watching the Indonesian "Kecak" dance. In this show, more than 20 people sat on the floor in two circles, chanting and waving their arms in the air. The purpose of these actions was to protect their dancing princess from an evil spirit.

"The 'Kecak' is really religious and mystical," Djamaludin said. "I've seen the guys practicing; they've really put forth the effort to make their dance really good."

Emma Ko, a co-director for the Japanese Student Organization, said her organization contributed to International Night by making food and by performing in a play

native to their homeland. She said the JSO decided to become involved in the festivities to teach people about the customs of Japan.

"This was a good opportunity to show the different sides of our culture," Ko said. "I hope that the people who came to International Night had fun learning about other countries."

Moen said she was happy with how the evening progressed. Due to cooperation, hard work and practice, she said "International Night" exceeded her expectations.

"Seeing the fruits of our efforts has been very rewarding," Moen said. "I'm really glad that the campus and the community came here to celebrate the diversity on campus."

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