

Night of poetry and song brings students to bed

by Nathaniel Potter

With lights dimmed and pillows scattered about, the Pollock Commons Cultural Lounge was transformed into a tranquil setting for friends, ideas, expression and creativity. With shoes laid aside and hearts exposed, the audience relaxed on mattresses, pillows and chairs in anticipation of the show.

Poets, singers, students and faculty joined together Oct. 10 for a spoken word night that included everything from poetry to odes to testimonies to the Alicia Keys song "Falling" to rap to political statements and rants.

This open mike event had only a few conventional characteristics, including a stage, performers and an audience, who enjoyed the performance on a giant bed made by conjoining mattresses.

"We were trying to emphasize the idea that at the end of the day, you would hear bedtime stories from your parents," said Toby Jenkins, director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. "It was a time to impart

wisdom and morals."

Jenkins started spoken word night at Penn State last April, and it has been a major success.

"Students love it. They relax and just share," Jenkins said.

The motivation is to allow students to come together at the end of the day for fellowship and conversation.

Jenkins read some of her own poetry to encourage the girls in the room: "Embrace the lady you already are ... and become the woman you are destined to be."

Roby Patrick read a love poem he had written, pouring his feelings out on the small stage.

The audience heard numerous poems about the indecency of men and women and the corruptness of our sexual relationships. The environment encouraged learning with peers.

People entered the lounge in their own little groups but became one group as the performance went on. The intended purpose for the event worked: people recognized

others for their emotional expressions without judging or stereotyping.

"It gives you the opportunity to pick up different things from different cultures," said Stephanie Chito, a senior majoring in business management and media studies. "You walk away with more than you came with." Chito is assistant vice president of the NAACP chapter at Penn State.

Crystal Endsley hosted the event, introduced the artists and kept everything organized. She performed a poem about herself and her place in this world, sometimes yelling and at other times seeming gentle and vulnerable. She opened up her eyes so that she could help others open their eyes. She presented her emotions and let the audience take part in her experiences and her expressions.

Both Jenkins and Endsley said they were quite pleased with the event and are looking forward to the next "Come to Bed" night Nov. 14. There will be two more spoken word nights in the spring semester.

"Come to Bed" was sponsored by the



Photo by Crystal Endsley
Students perform poetry in front of peers gathered on a gigantic bed.

Paul Robeson Cultural Center and Pollock Housing. The organizations provided mattresses, music and free food.

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Downtown

Got Used Bookstore
Access 214
Dee's Hot Dogs
Artifax
Family clothesline
Student Book Store
Citi Lights Records
Nittany Valley Symphony
Rathskeller
T-Shirt Shop
Community Help Center
Isabelle's Bead Shop
Communication Station
Cold Stone Creamery
India Pavilion
Euphoria Hair
Avant Garden
Belle's Greek Pizza (Calder Way)
Mike's Video (downtown)
Chocolate Madness
Penn State Downtown Theater
The Deli
Harvest Fresh
Masala
Body Works
Uncle Chen's Restaurant
Spats Café
Penn State Sub Shop - downtown
Nace/Saltman Optician
Canyon Pizza

Café Metro
Tavern Restaurant
Visions
Andrew Shubin, Attorney
Drs. Dunne and Dunne,
Dermatologists
Irving's Bagels
Penn State Clothing
Nittany Bank
Chili's
Woodring's Floral Garden
Industrie,
Webster's Bookstore and Café
Rinaldo's Barber Shop
Chumley's
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Sunshine Imports
Arboria Records
Red Cross
State College Municipal Building
Custom Shoe Repair
Custom Alterations
Corner Room
Allen St. Grill
CVS Pharmacy
Ye Olde College Diner
Schlow Library
Herwig's Austrian Resaurant
Saint's Café
Studio 2 Photography

Café 210 West
Simply Kind
Beyond Downtown
Nature's Pantry
Meyer Dairy
Autoport
Nittany Eye Associates
Highlands Counseling Center
State College Area School District
Office
Women's Resource Center
Adult Education -SCASD office
Alden House
Amy's Fine cuts
UU Fellowship
Stone Soup
Damon's
Art Alliance
Center for Well Being
Houts
Granary
CATA at Cato Park
Dix Honda
Friend's School
Foxdale Village
Albrecht Audiology
Mt. Nittany Residence
Friends Meetinghouse
Mt. Nittany Medical Center
Mortgage source

Nittany Office Equipment
RBR Recumbent bikes
Communication Station
South Hills Business School
Apartments at 162 Scenery Court
Duffy's Tavern
Portfolio Salon
Tait Farm Harvest Shop
Bus station on N. Atherton
Alley Cat Music
Snappy's
ReMax Realty
Wisocoy Pet Foods
Weis
Eckard Drug Store
UniMart
Sheetz
Penn State Sub Shop
Filmore General Store
Wal-Mart

Bellefonte

Centre County Library
Cool Beans Coffee House
Court Administrator's Office
Diamond Deli
Hamilton and Kimmel Law Firm
M&T Bank on Allegheny St
Court House
Schnitzel's Restaurant
Willowbank Building

PSU Campus

Weaver Building
Humphrey Fellows
HUB
Pattee Library
Agricultural Administration Building
North Halls: Warnock Union
Building
Mateer Building
Keller Conference Center
Kern Building
West Halls: Waring Commons
Weston Commons (West campus
graduate residence)
Sparks Building
Carnegie: School of Communication
Burrowes: English Dept, Pol. Sci
Dept
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