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May Week 2001 Extravaganza!

The 2001 May Week celebration at West Virginia State College will go down in the college annals as an international extravaganza. On May 3rd three special events took place: the 10th Annual Multicultural/International Awareness Festival and Disabilities Day, the opening of the 2nd Annual Middle States African Studies Association Conference, and the International Banquet.

The 10th Annual Multicultural/International Awareness Festival and Disabilities Day was celebrated at the WVSC Student Plaza from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Entertainment included Latin music by Monteraros, Middle Eastern Dancing, WVSC Amazina Drumming Ensemble, Reggae music by the Last Prophets, the Dunbar Junior High Step Team, and featured vendors from the tri-state area. The Festival was organized by Multicultural Counselor, Robin Guillory, who, in her first year on the job, did an outstanding job of organizing the event.



Fashion show at the WVSC Multicultural Festival

The 2nd Annual Middle States African Studies Association conference also opened during the afternoon of May 3. The conference, organized through the WVSC History Department and the Office of International Affairs (OIA), was held May 3-5 on the WVSC campus. West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services director, Faisal Khan introduced the opening keynote speaker, Senator Edwin Brown, from the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The conference theme, "Black Plague: Health, Population and AIDS in the African Diaspora," attracted scholars from Nigeria, Malawi, the Cameroons, Tanzania, and the United States.



Senator Brown accepts key to the City of Charleston from Mayor Jay Goldman

150 banquet attendees. Senator Brown and WVSC President, Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr., signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will forge a partnership between WVSC and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Entertainment was provided by The Don Gresby Fashion Show and the Amazina Percussion Ensemble led by WVSC professor of English, Dr. Martin Japtok.

In addition to listening to a wide variety of session papers, conference participants attended a photography exhibit by Vanessa Vick titled "Genocide in Africa," in the Della Brown Taylor Art Gallery, and a film viewing of "Maangamizi--The Ancient One," (Tanzania) starring Amandina Lihamba.

The International Banquet, organized by Special Events Coordinator, Pat Cline, in conjunction with the OIA, was held during the evening of May 3 in the McGhee Suites. Charleston Mayor, Jay Goldman, presented a key to the city to Senator Edwin Brown before the

INSIDE

Naomi Tutu	p.3
WVSC-OU Connection	p.3
Global Partnership Conference	p.5
Faculty and Alumni News	p.6
Voice of the Students	p.8
Play Ball-Cricket that is!	p.12
Language Corner	p.14

