OUR WORLD

partyline, pacesetters, people

Sigmas host innovative 'Autumn Evening' gala

FINGER POPPIN' TIME — Charles B. Wright, National president and chairman of the Board of Phi Beta Sigma does a mean disco with Betty Boykin at the 'Autumn Evening' sponsored by Zeta Alpha Sigma' Chapter at the Tawes Building, Coppin State College, on Saturday, Oct. 18.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

SIGMA GUESTS enjoying a rap session during the festivities are Dorothy Taylor and Virginia Powell.

SIGMA OFFICERS pictured (L to R) are Mahlon Carrington, vice president, Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter, Robert Nelson Sr., chair for the event and James Ethridge, president.

SIGMA SWEETHEART for Towson State's chapter of the fraternity, Gay Pinder, (L) watches as Todd McDaniels, president of the Towson State Chapter tries his luck at billiards.

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Staff Writer

Saturday night Oct. 18 was a festive time at Coppin State College. The reason? The Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., hosted 'An Autumn Evening with Sigma' — And what an evening it was!

The three floors of the Tawes building were teeming with hundreds of guests who enjoyed a variety of lively activities.

On the lobby level which had been decorated with signs of fall (pumpkins, leaves and the like), there was a delicious buffet and flowing champagne fountains. There was also an area which featured the jazz scene by the Infinite Experience Band. It was here that guests were later treated to a fashion show, with designs by Rhonda Renae Nelson, artfully aired by a bevy of lovely models, including Flair Studio's Andrea Bland. On the lower level guests who wanted to could try their hand at games of chance which included billiards, black jack, and the roulette. This was an exciting area, remiscent of Atlantic City or Las Vegas or those who wanted to 'cool it' there were also on this level the sweet and mellow tunes of Mickey Fields and Johnny Polite, in a cozy Rathskeller area called Blues Alley.

And let's not forget the top floor. Here is where guests literally danced their feet off to the disco tunes of the Don Dee Ka Disco Production. Spotted Delta Thelma Daley and hubby on the floor, doing their disco steps.

During intermission, guests on this level were also treated to a fashion show featuring the all male models of the Mantazia Modeling Studio airing the latest and greatest in men's wear.

On all levels there was open bar and hors' d'oeuvres.

And throughout it all, those Sigma brothers circulated, seeing to it that everyone had a good time —

Many of their Zeta sisters who were at their Atlantic Regional Conference downtown came up afterwards to join in the fun.

The affair, given to benefit the fraternity's scholarship and building fund, was a winner. There was even a raffle, which sent one of the guests home a double winner — one for being on hand for the festivities and one for being the lucky raffle winner.

Guests were reluctant to leave at 2 a.m. and many lingered . . . to partake of cake and coffee, to rap, to dance . . . while the beat went on.

James Ethridge is president of the Zeta Alpha Sigma Chapter. Robert L. Nelson Sr. was chair for the innovative and lively affair.

Swags hold elegant dinner dance

LIVING IT UP — Guests at the Swag's swanky dinner dance enjoying themselves to the hilt are (L to R): Mr. and Mrs. Osborn Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown and Mr. and Mrs. John Wood. The affair was held Friday, Oct. 24 at Blue Crest North.

SWAGS elegant hosts at their dinner - dance included from (L) Dr. King V. Cheek, Washington, D.C., Dr. Ted Phifer, Patrick R. Walker Jr., Cheney, Pa.; Henry G. Parks Jr.; Howard Marshall Sr., Theodore E. Brown Sr., Ulysses G. Bourne Jr., Orville L. Roey, Samuel T. Daniels and Dr. George F. Woodland.

The Swags elegant and intimate dinner dance last Friday at Blue-Crest North had Theodore Brown as president: Orville Roey as chairman: and Samuel T. Daniels as co-chairman. He's also secretary. Henry Parks is vice-president.

And ladies, these men not only know how to give a party but they make sure everyone has a good time.

Elegant after all, does not mean stuffy. Roey saw to it that the tables were decked in embroidered white organdy cloths with blue undercloths replete with huge chandeliers for ferns and red and white carnations.

There was a fresh fruit table decorated with a fall cornupcia of apples and oranges.

The dinner which started with a salmon mousse went to sherbet to prime ribs to fresh fruit to hot crepes.

In between, Biddy Wood was on hand with his Sphinx Club band and cheer leader Sam Daniels had you on the floor dancing. . .

AKA Dot Marshall and Biddy dueted on a splendid rendition of "Impossible Dream" to the whole gang harmonizing at the end on "My Buddy".

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The Swags was formed over 50 years ago by the late Rivers Chambers, Atty. William Gosnell, Dr. Ulysses Bourne, Dr. Ted Phifer and Charlie Laws who were among some of the early club members.

Today of that original group, Dr. Ted Phifer, coach Talmadge Hill and Dr. Ulysses G. Bourne are still active.

Members of the club today are Dr. Ulysses G. Bourne Jr., Theodore E. Brown Jr.: Dr. King V. Cheek Jr.; Howard Marshall Sr., Henry G. Parks Jr., Donald Patterson, Elmer S. Patterson, Dr. Theodore Phifer, Orville L. Roey, Patrick H. Walker, Cheney, Pa. and Dr. George Woodland.

Special guests were wives of their deceased members and they included Mrs. Elizabeth (Jake) Stewart; Mrs. Margaret (Edgar) Ewing; Mrs. Cathryn (Bill) Stanford, and Mrs. Mildred (James) Johnson.

Guests were Messrs and Mesdames Jesse Fears, Bernard Cooper, Joseph Brecy, Alphonso Williamson, Ronald Fisher, Jerry Lymas, Franklin Cheek, Lonnie Saunders;

Also Mr. and Mrs. John Stokes, Ken Wilson, Robert Phillips, William Harris, John Woods, Osborn Payne, D. John Peters, Quenton Lawson, Charles Brown;

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Johnson, Roger J. Johnson, Raymond V. Haysbert, Sherlock Grinage, William L. Adams, Charles Baltimore, Walter Edmonds, Wilfred Seeborne, Alonzo Lancaster, Ernest Dennis, Charles Lawson, Samuel Boyd, William Sykes, Clarence Montgomery.

Drs. and Mrs. Harvis Williams, Van Thompson, Simon Carter, Clifton R. Jones, E. Walter Shervington, W. Simpson Stubbs, Lonnie Green, J. Hiram Butler, Sidney Burnett, Woodrow Wilson, Richard Tyson, James Pritchett.

Also Atty. Mrs. Vernon Green, Dr. Blance Jordon, Miss Doris Monroe, Mrs. Anne S. Davis, Mrs. Allie Clift and Judge and Mrs. Harry Cole.

Partyline

Brenda Alford birthday bash-smash hit

By Pattie Hodges,
AFRO Staff Writer

There was standing-room-only at The Closet, W. Franklin St., on Sunday, Oct. 26 for the birthday held there for that popular songstress, Brenda Alford.

The celebration, which began at 8 p.m., was hosted by Henry Baker, proprietor of The Closet, his wife Arbia (Mae) and 'Mimi', Ms. Alford's manager.

It had to be the party of the week. Crowds jammed the club to join Brenda in celebration of her natal day and they lingered until closing time.

There was a scrumptuous buffet dinner prepared by Mae Baker, which featured an out-of-sight rice salad, hot salmon hors d'oeuvres and many other delectables.

The birthday girl was gifted with three cakes — One a delicious carrot cake made by hostess Mae, one from Mr. Baker and one from her manager.

The Bob Butta Trio provided music for the occasion and Brenda, entertainer that she is, sang her heart out.

A hilarious duo from Chicago who happened to be in the city, broke up the crowd with a comedy skit.

Cassandra Jamison, of the Free Spirit Theatre sang a chorus of 'Happy Birthday' to Brenda and was then joined by the crowd in singing another chorus of it.

On hand for the celebration were many local musicians and friends of the birthday lady.

Brenda, you will remember, was featured earlier this year as one of the AFRO's 'Ten Women to Watch as the 80s Begin' is well worth watching.

Aside from her appearances at The Closet, Brenda will be in concert at Gallery 409 on November 8, her theme being 'A Tribute to Billie Holliday."

On Nov. 15 she will be at The Academy Awards for local Musicians at the Convention Center, where she will receive the "Billie Award." (Named for the famous late singer).

In addition to this, she has cut an album 'Brenda Alford Live at Morgan State University' which will be released on Dec. 1.

I'd venture to say this lady's star is definitely ascending.

Marsans entertain U. of Md. prexy

Mr. and Mrs Justen Marsan (Jewell) entertained at dinner and cocktails on Oct. 22 at the Powhatan Ave. home in honor of University of Md. president John Toll and his wife Debbie.

There to meet them were Messrs and Mesdames Marshall Bright (Emma) ; Raymond Haysbert (Evelyn): Charles Hicks (Marie); Ernest Johnson (Annette); James Mebane (Charlotte); Paul Moss (Betty); John Murphy III (Camay): J.C.Reeves (Agnes); Glenn Tarter (Gwen): Jerome Todd (Mamie) and Roland Williams (Anethia):

Also Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Byrd (Mabel): Dr. and Mrs. I. Bradshaw Higgins (Hilda): Chancellor and Mrs. William Hytche (Delores): Dr. and Mrs. Saul Purdue (Melissa); Mr. and Mrs. William Spencer (Dr. Louise Young) and Dr. Roland Williams Jr.

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