

AKA's ball raises money for scholarships

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

The Third Annual Emerald Ball scholarship fundraiser will take place at 7:00 pm on Saturday, March 25, at the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino located at 3770 Las Vegas Blvd South.

The ball was founded by the Theta Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., as an awards and fundraising event designed to raise money for female high school students who are college bound.

The ball is a formal affair, and entertainment will be provided by Reese's Pieces. Christina Brown, weekend television news anchor for KTNV CH-13, will emcee. The affair will include dinner, desert, a silent auction and an awards ceremony.

Each year, the chapter honors outstanding citizens who have made significant contributions locally in the area of the national programs of the sorority.

This year's five honorees and respective categories are:

Jacquelyn Shropshire, founder and president of the Las Vegas Clark County Urban League, for Black Family; Lawrence Weekly, Las Vegas City Councilman, Ward 5, for Economic Development; Diane Pollard, founder Rainbow Dreams Academy Charter School, for Education; Alicia Gibbs, president ID.Media, for Arts and Humanities; and Dr. Debra Toney, first vice president, National Black Nurses Association, for Health.

"The more [gala attendees], the more scholarships



Members of the Theta Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Pictured from left to right are President Billie Rayford, Chair Peggy M. Selma, Vice Co-Chairs Keysa Rogers and Alberta Mitchell, organizers for the third annual Emerald Ball.

Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

tion contributes to each year, according to the coordinators.

"[Even] if you can't attend, you can make donations," Rogers said.

The sorority works in conjunction with other community organizations to fulfill its commitment for educational assistance to female students and to contribute to the many other local charitable projects.

"The funds we provide are matched by Ronald McDonald House Charities," said Peggy M. Selma, chairman of the sorority's ways and means committee.

Local community projects includes partnerships with the Doolittle Senior Center, National Black Coalition on Cancer Health Forum, National Family Volunteerism Day — Community Health Forum, Thanksgiving Baskets for senior citizens, the Ivy Reading Academy at Wendell P. Williams Elementary School, Black Community Organization Network Baccalaureate Program, AKA Teens Youth Mentoring Program, and Gulf Coast hurricane victims.

(See Emerald, Page 3)

Ebony Fashion Fair back: Culture gets center stage

By Tasha Pope
Sentinel-Voice

The Ebony Fashion Fair, sponsored by Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Alpha Rho Chapter, will be held at the Texas Station Hotel and Casino on April 2 at 4:00 p.m. Continuing with tradition, the 2006 tour will raise money for people in need.

The international Ebony Fashion Fair, now in its 48th year, is the largest traveling fashion show and was originally created in 1956 by Mrs. Jessie Covington Dent. Since its inception, the tour's producers have reportedly donated more than \$49 million to the United Negro College Fund and other African-American-oriented charities.

"This year, our funds will aid historical Black colleges that were affected by Hurricane Katrina," said Dorothy Muhammad, general chairperson for the Las Vegas Ebony Fashion Fair committee and a sorority sister.

She added, "It's important that we support [the youth] and make sure they get an education."

As a result of producer and director Mrs. Eunice W. Johnson's work, the tour has become famous for delivering beautiful and handsome Black models, dripping in top designer couture, in entertaining and dramatic scenes throughout the show.

She has been traveling across the world for more than four decades purchasing creations from some of the world's best-known and creative fashion designers.

This year, 10 female and two male models will flaunt elegant apparel designed by Givenchy, Oscar de la Renta, and Tracy Reese, just to name a few of the participating designers.

"Fit to Be Fabulous" is the 2006 fashion concept. This theme insists attitude makes everyone fabulous enough to wear what they desire.

"Fashion is mainly about attitude. Fashion's for everyone," Muhammad explained.

A full-figured model will hit the runway

confirming the theme, and according to Muhammad, "bring the house down."

In addition to hot models sporting the latest fashion, other incentives are in place to entice people to attend, according to coordinators.

"You will also have the chance to win door prizes," Muhammad explained.

Prizes, will be awarded at the show, including two round-trip airfare tickets and products from Fashion Fair Cosmetics.

With every ticket purchase attendees also receive their choice of a free one-year magazine subscription to *Ebony* or a six-month, free subscription to *Jet*. A drawing is scheduled for the grand prize — a 2006 Ford Explorer.

Tickets are currently on sale. For more information, call 645-0037.



Fashion and high culture are staples of the annual Ebony Fashion Fair in Las Vegas.

awarded. [It's important] to support our youth in the community and assist them in carrying on their dreams," said Keysa Rogers, vice co-chair.

Student scholarship candidates submit an application along with an essay to the committee whose members make the final selection for financial awards. The dead-

line for applying for scholarships is past, and this year's recipients will be announced at the event.

The sorority stresses the importance of supporting education for youth. Contributions, apart from event ticket sales, are being accepted. Money raised goes toward scholarships and the other programs the organiza-



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