



Singing, dancing, poetry readings and fashion shows (above) highlighted the second annual BSU Cultural Show. See page 3 for details.

# Cultural show models talent

HEATHER WILLETT

*Spectrum Staff Reporter*

The second annual Black Student Union Cultural Show was held Sunday night in Katharine Cornell Theatre as part of UB's celebration of Black History Month.

The show featured three hours of singing, dancing, poetry readings, and several fashion shows.

The crowd was pumped up by several rap songs and then soothed by the sounds of "Devotion." The harmony of the six male vocalists left the audience not only singing along, but cheering for more.

Other musical entertainment was provided by UB junior Janessa Quarles who interrupted the cheering audience with the comment "I'm not finished yet!" Quarles adopted the cliché "leave them wanting more" by not satisfying the audience's appetite for an encore.

## Treatment of Black people

On a more serious note was the monologue by BSU Vice-President Tabitha Ngwashi in which she painted a vivid picture of the treat-

ment of Black people in South Africa.

The show also had three fashion shows featuring campus, career, and evening wear with clothing provided by local retailers.

The excitement and involvement of the audience peaked during the musical finale. An elaborate dance sequence was performed by the African-American Cultural Center and the Dance Troupe.

The dancers, many of whom were children, wore traditional African dress and danced to the beat of the drums. Their energy was reciprocated by the audience. African clothing and ornamentation enhanced the effect.

The costumes for the dance troupe were made by Bola Sobande, a graduate student at UB in the department of Architecture and Urban Planning.

## Sobande's talent

Sobande's talent reaches beyond the drawing board as evidenced by a fashion show featuring African styles which she designed and made. She creates both South African and American style clothing. Sobande described her designs as "western

variations on the original African designs."

The clothing ranged from casual to formal outfits typical of those worn by the elite, according to Sobande. They included candlewax batik designs, tie-dyed, and embroidered work.

Both men's and women's clothing was done in cotton and topped off with headpieces of cotton or silk. The headpieces are "one long cloth just wrapped differently," Sobande said. Styles from the west coast of Africa were also modeled.

Strips of cloth are sewn together to create a larger piece of fabric and is still made in "the traditional way of dress-making which is passed on from generation to generation," Sobande said. This is because of the belief "that something will happen to the family" if a different method were used, Sobande explained.

Sobande creates African designs for the public and can be reached through the BSU at 636-3029. Due to her responsibilities as a student, Sobande produces most of the clothing during the summer.