

Step show engages audience

BY EMILY WICHMER
Staff Reporter

With synchronized stomping, clapping and singing, Alpha Phi Alpha's first step show, "Turn't Up Show," stomped March 23 in Baldwin Auditorium.

Senior Ward Hughes, Alpha Phi Alpha member, said he sent invitations to different step teams from Missouri and Illinois to participate in the Turn't Up Show. Five teams from St. Louis, Southeast Missouri State University and Illinois State University showed off their skills, Hughes said.

According to the website "Step Afrika!" step-dancing is a form created by African American college students during the early 20th century. During stepping, performers use their body as an instrument to create sounds through clapping, stomping, speaking or singing, according to the website.

Senior Rob Jones, Alpha Phi Alpha president, said the Turn't Up Show was the first time the fraternity hosted a step show. He said the fraternity believes bringing entertainment that is different from what they normally host brings the community together in a fun and energizing way.

Taylor said although the dance form is highly entertaining, his group's main goal is to remind audience members they are not just dancing to put on a show. The group wants to promote the more serious cause of helping fraternities across the country who support young African Americans, he said.

This semester, instead of hosting Alpha Week, the time the fraternity especially dedicates to serving the community each semester and their largest event of the year, Jones said the fraternity decided to have a step show because they thought it would be an entertaining event for the audience. He said Alpha Phi Alpha attends a step show



A step group from a middle school in St. Louis performs at Alpha Phi Alpha's "Turn't Up Show" on March 23 in Baldwin Auditorium. This was the first step show hosted by the fraternity, senior Rob Jones said.

every year at a national conference, but this was the first time the fraternity was able to produce and run one themselves.

Jones said the name "Turn't Up" means hyped and engaging. When audience members became enthused and engaged during the performance, Jones said he knew the show really was "Turn't Up."

Kenneth Taylor is a member of the Omega Alpha Psi fraternity from St. Louis that performed Saturday. He said his step team of 21 members has been breakdancing since they were children, and said they learned stepping from a workshop they attended during 2009. He said the form took an hour for the already seasoned break-

dancers to learn and since then Omega Alpha Psi's team has performed at more than 100 venues throughout the Midwest.

"Stepping is a form of dance that is very different from other dance forms," Taylor said. "It's radical and unorthodox. Anyone watching stepping for the first time is guaranteed to be in for a surprise."

Anime club seeks funds for trip

BY CHRIS BROWN
Staff Reporter

A typical meeting for Truman State's anime club means gathering in the Magruder Hall basement to watch anime, but current members want to offer more opportunities to future members.

During April 2012, the club began an art sale to try to raise enough money to attend conventions as a group, Hanson said. Their efforts finally will pay off this April when the club sends its first group, which consists of 12 people, to Anime St. Louis, an anime convention that occurs in St. Louis.

Anime club president senior Dylan Hanson said he wants to be able to provide funding to help club members attend anime conventions. He said several members have wanted to go to conventions as a group for a long time, but the club has not had the money to attend any conventions until this semester.

Junior Emily Aubuchon, Anime Club secretary, said the club's weekly meetings allow members to socialize and "nerd out" in a group setting. She said the meetings give members or anyone who shows up the opportunity to watch different kinds of shows than they normally would, in addition to the two series the club follows throughout the semester.

Aubuchon said the club strives to provide a judgment-free environment for members to pursue what interests them. She said many of the members who show up regularly play card games and video games while watching the shows, and the club's administrators encourage members and their friends to come and enjoy these activities in a group setting.

Contrary to what Aubuchon described as the club's reputation, she said the members of anime club have parties and hang out the same way any club or organization at Truman would.

"We're trying to combat our reputa-

tion and offer an environment for people to come and feel welcome, whether they're into Pokemon or whatever," Aubuchon said.

Though the meetings provide an opportunity to watch new shows and pursue anime in a group setting, junior and club member Lydia Buck said she wants anime club members to experience what it's like to go to a convention. She said she has wanted to send the anime club to a convention as a group since she attended her first convention.

"A convention is really just a gathering of all the geeks who like the same thing," Buck said. "But there's just so much more to it."

The conventions offer a diverse array of activities, Buck said. She said activities include fan art shows, costume competitions, live musical events and opportunities to meet animators and voice actors. Conventions also allow fans to purchase merchandise they can't easily find elsewhere, Buck said.

She said conventions also give fans the opportunity to sell their art and see the art other fans produce. She said some artists produce high-quality work, and some make enough money from selling their wares at conventions that they are able to make a living doing it.

"I know a person who was making about \$500 a day off of the amount of stuff they were selling at conventions just because it was really nice stuff," Buck said.

Though the anime club isn't trying to get rich from their art sale, Hanson said he hopes they will make enough to attend more conventions next school year, and that people at Truman who see the art sale will stop to talk to them and find out the club members are not as stereotypical of a group as they might appear.

"We would like people to recognize that anime is a legitimate medium for telling a story, not a fad or an obsession," Hanson said.



Above, sophomores Jacob Sloan and Caitlin Weiman check out the Anime Club Art Sale Tuesday in Violette Hall. Below, the anime club sold items including plush Pokemon, which were crocheted by freshman Kathryn Schuchardt. All of the items sold at the art sale were handmade by someone from the club or handmade and donated to raise money for an anime convention.



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