

## **Joker Release Party**

By: Arleny Popoteur

Most people avoid dressing awkward, yet on Saturday night, Sept. 18, mismatching, knee high socks and bathrobes were the standard at the Joker Release Party in the Iles P.E Center.

The line of strangely dressed students formed an hour before the event and stretched all the way to the Collegedale Church. The first 300 people to arrive received a free t-shirt.

“I am very excited and I expect to get a free t-shirt, that is why I am here!” said Kristel Stewart, sophomore general studies major.

Once the doors opened, students scrambled to grab their t-shirts and wandered around the gym. Different attractions included nacho stand, twister, pin the tie on Gordon Bietz, video games on the stage and a photo booth.

“It’s a good way to distress, dress up and have fun. After a long week it is well needed,” said Simone Marshall, junior journalism major.

Later on students gathered on the bleachers where the Master of Ceremonies Caleb Michalski, sophomore mass communication major, John Olare, sophomore social work major, and Jeremy Pastor, junior nursing major, welcomed the student body to the “Awkward Family Reunion”.

Throughout the night the emcees told jokes and talked with the audience. “Unfortunately, even though I was sitting close to the emcees it was difficult to hear and understand them,” said Kroania Olivas, sophomore graphic design major.

Students also had the chance to sing along to recognizable songs like “Lean on Me” and perform the “Electric Slide”. Olare pumped up the crowd by making them do the wave during the first act of the night.

The crowd went wild when they announced “Hakke Matte”, performers at last year talent show, were next.

Before performing dancer Chris Charles, sophomore animation major, said, “I am a little bit nervous. But I think we’ll do as good as we practiced, and we practiced a lot.”

Students cheered after their performance.

The amount of students who departed the party continued with the next activity, which was more interactive with the audience calling nine volunteers up to play “Southern Square.”

The night ended with family feud between the emcees and other actors. Then they passed out the Jokers on the way out of the gym in alphabetical order. SA Social Vice President Janelle Billiny was pleased with the turnout. "The people that came and participated had a lot of fun," Student Association Social Vice President Janelle Billiny, said.