



Sister Cindy tells A-State students to become “ho’s no mo”

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SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Sister Cindy, viral TikTok influencer and known preacher, visited Arkansas State University on Nov. 4 around noon to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Her presence gathered hundreds of students. A couple days prior she posted on TikTok announcing her expected arrival to three schools in Arkansas including: University of Central Arkansas, University of Little Rock and Arkansas State University.

Cindy Smock, a 63-year-old from Indiana, became popular around 2021 on TikTok as her viral presence documented her controversial preachings she shared to university students of various campuses in different states.

Smocks has been traveling and visiting different universities for 44 years alongside her late husband, Brother Jed.

They met at the University of Florida in the '70s and married four and half years later. Brother Jed was a pastor for 50 years.

In early June he died due to health complications.

With Sister Cindy's arrival to A-State, she was accompanied by Heidi Barry-Rettele, known as Sister Heidi.

The two began working together in the first part of September, where Sister Heidi's own pastor introduced the two women as he was inspired by Brother Jed and Sister Cindy when they had visited the University of Nebraska in the '80s.

“Our role is we want to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, to anyone and everyone who listens. That is our hope,” said Sister Heidi.

The Nebraskan does majority of the filming process, usually known and seen to be carrying a device and tripod to film Sister Cindy's preachings.

She also drives the two of them from location to location, makes sure that all the equipment is accounted for and even speaks to students. Their travels don't always consist of just the two women working together independently, with them at times having the company of three to seven people joining them on their endeavors.

Her notoriety and sensationalism have molded her into a comedic character for some. Words targeting young women of how they should act, or how they should manage and maintain their sexuality and/or creating a shift between faith and identity is more focused than the undermining goal of Smocks, of “calling upon students for repentance and faith in Jesus.”

Smock's dramatic tangents of women's sexuality and her on-going campaign of, “No Ho, No More” and “Never a Ho” sent her skyrocketing in social media, especially upon teens and young adults.

“I became viral on TikTok before having an account. I had an account before, but I never really posted anything. It's the students that made me viral,” Smock said.

Smock's popularity was never intended, nor was it ever her decision, but she believes that this was the work of the Lord. “God knew that Brother Jed, my husband, was going to pass away and he wanted the ministry to continue. By making me go viral, it just made it easy. I just posted that I was going to be here and there were people out here and waiting when I got here. I think it was the Lord that did it.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELBY THOMPSON

Sister Cindy Smocks at Arkansas State University. For more photos visit astatetheherald.com

When questioned about her ways of preaching, she states that though her purpose is to share the gospel, they are also trying to put on a show.

“I do use satire, speak in hyperbole, exaggerations and make jokes. I think one reason I did become viral was because in March 2021, people were going through COVID and they needed something to laugh at. I didn't mind being laughed at,” Smock said. “Gen Z, they have a sense of humor, they don't mind me making jokes about them, they can laugh at themselves too.”

Smock's statement remained true as a large crowd formed outside the Humanities building, near the Memorial Arch, watching the preachings of Sister Cindy. Students of different ranks, majors and ages attended, grasping the

chances to hear her speak and even gain attention from the speaker herself.

With the on-going chants of “No Ho, No More,” and “Never a Ho,” Sister Cindy would ask questions that were derived from the Bible or inspired by her storytelling of her life, career and marriage. Smock would ask questions to the crowd and with every question answered correctly she would give students pins with the chants written on them.

Jayda Halfacre, a first-year majoring in nursing from Truman, won a Sister Cindy pin when another peer of hers had already won one, giving his second-winning pin to her.

“I don't agree with all of what she says, but I think that it's cool what she does and I think that this is definitely the largest I've seen here so far and so I thought

it was pretty neat that everyone gathered today,” Halfacre said.

Rike Robinson, a junior majoring in composition from Jonesboro, won his pin by answering a question that was intended for memory, seeing if anyone in the crowd had been really paying attention.

“It's ethereal, it's great. She came here my freshman year, two years ago and I actually got to sit down and talk to her and it was really interesting. It's so hard to tell if she's legit or if she's doing a bit, you know? And so, I'm of the belief that it's really over exaggerated and it's like a bit but maybe there might be a little hint of like here's how you can be saved or whatever,” Robinson said. When asked if he'd attended once more if she came the next year, he happily agreed.

Election Results:

Editor's Note: These results are as of 9:36 P.M. on Election Night Nov. 8.

Governor:

Sarah Huckabee Sanders: 62%
Chris Jones: 36.3%
Ricky Harrington: 1.6%

US Senate:

John Boozman: 64.7%
Natalie James: 32.4%
Kenneth Cates: 3%

US House:

AR 1 Rick Crawford: 75.1%
AR 2 French Hill: 60.4%
AR 3 Steve Womack: 61.1%
Bruce Westerman: 69.3%

Ballot Measures:

Issue 1: Against 61.8%
Issue 2: Against 60.7%
Issue 3: Against 51.5%
Issue 4: Against 59%

University withdraw/drop date extended

Arkansas State University announced the last day to drop a class or withdraw for the Fall 2022 semester has been extended to **Monday, Nov. 28**.

“We feel it would be better if we made the last day to drop for the semester the following Monday, Nov. 28, at the close of the business day,” said Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Alan Utter.

The original drop date was Friday, Nov. 25 which is a campus holiday.

OPINION, 2A

- Qatar's World Cup is dangerous
- Twitter shackled after Musk takeover?

NEWS, 3A

- A-State and Every Child is Ours
- Campus Crime

NEWS, 4A

- “Izzo” Ahmed prepares to present drug interaction research nationally

LIFE B1

- This Week's Pop Pick
- Horoscopes



PHOTO, 4B

- The Fall season is here at A-State

“Best Steppers” Kappa Alpha Psi

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The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) hosted the “Best Steppers” event Nov 3, in which fraternities and sororities from the Divine Nine competed in a step show.

“Stepping is a ritual dance performed based on synchronized movements and it's linked to our African cultural traditions originated by Black fraternities and sororities in the mid-1900s,” said Jadacee Glover, a junior exercise science major from McGehee, Arkansas and the 2nd Vice President of the National Pan-Hellenic Council at Arkansas State University. “Within our Black Greek lettered organizations it was developed as a way for us to express our unity, love and pride in a broader community aspect.”

The National Pan-Hellenic Council, also called the Divine

Nine, consists of nine historically Black fraternities and sororities. Out of the eight represented on campus, five participated in the competition. Alpha Phi Alpha, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Kappa Alpha Psi were the three fraternities and Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Gamma Rho were the two sororities.

The organizations could win three awards. The “Overall Best Stepper” title was determined by a panel of judges, as well as the second runner up award. The “People's Choice” title was determined by a Kahoot vote in which the crowd could choose their favorite performance.

The “Overall Best Stepper” award was given to Kappa Alpha Psi. Glover said that the NPHC was excited to see Kappa Alpha Psi compete because they did not perform last year.

Christopher Crutchfield, a senior music education major

from North Little Rock and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, said since they were not on campus last year, “so for us to compete in our first step show this year and win it overall, it felt really good.”

The “People's Choice” award and the second runner up title was given to Sigma Gamma Rho.

“Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated, recently just came back to campus this past spring,” Glover said. Since this was their first time competing in a step show, “A lot of people are very excited to see them.”

Reagan Boone, a senior computer science major from North Little Rock and a member of Sigma Gamma Rho, said, “It was actually super fun, I really enjoyed it.”

Boone said her group worked really hard on their show. Her favorite award they received was the “People's Choice Award” because it showed that

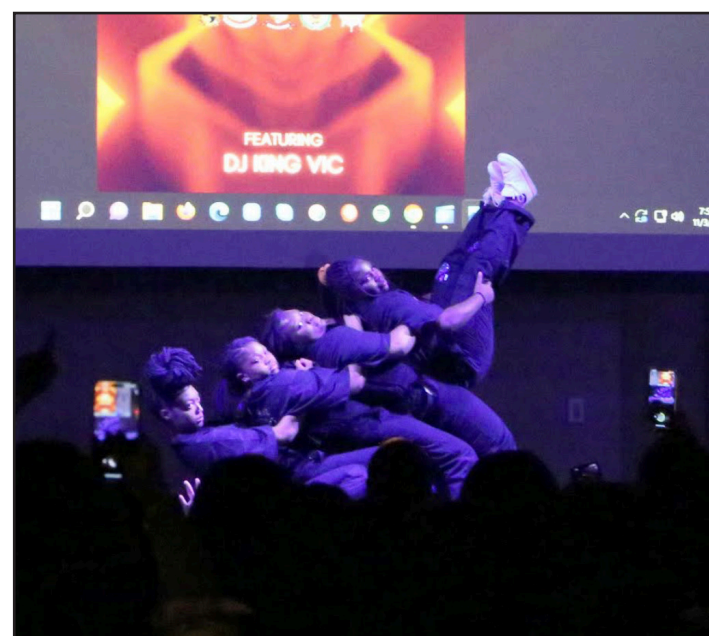


Photo by Caroline Averitt | Staff Writer

Some of the performers at the “Best Steppers” event.

people recognized their effort. Crutchfield said that those who did not come to see the step show, “Definitely missed a treat.

I'm just very proud of everyone that came out and supported the event and I'm also proud of the people that competed.