

# BUILDING DREAMS AT BOWLING GREEN

by Donna Gallaway, FFS Sec. Ohio



FF with the Sebos at Bowling Green, OH

The Four Freshmen event on April 6th was a significant part of the Centennial Campaign at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. The "Building Dreams" multiyear fundraising effort increases scholarships, enhances faculty and leadership positions, and strengthens programs (including those in the music department). Thanks to Bob and Karen Sebo (FFS Ohio who were featured in the previous issue of Fresh News) the Four Freshmen were the highlight of Jazz Week 2005 and part of the current "Building Dreams" campaign.

The Freshmen had conducted several clinics with students and performed at a high school in Salem, OH the night before, so they were busy reaching out to some new, younger fans. The guys say this is very rewarding and enjoyable - also much needed, as these kids will be the future of a "Fresh" fan base!

The evening was a perfect finish to a beautiful warm 80 degree day in northwest Ohio. As Tom and I walked toward the Bowen-Thompson Student Union, I couldn't help but remark about how things had changed since I graduated from BGSU some 30 years ago. The way the students were dressed (or "undressed") on this unusually warm day caught my eye! The newly remodeled Union, where the concert was scheduled, was very nice, and much improved from what I remembered in my college days. Since the performance was general admission with no reserved seats, we arrived early to pick up our tickets and assure us good seats, in time to catch some rehearsal and sound check. No question - this would be a terrific show.

The doors opened at 7:30 with a very long line of Fresh Fans eagerly anticipating some great music. We headed for our seats near the front and found ourselves sitting directly behind Dr. Sidney Ribeau (President of BGSU) and his wife plus the Sebos and FFS Pres. Tom Purvis and his wife, Delee. Soon the

stage came alive with students and instruments as the BGSU Jazz Lab Band began playing Big Band tunes and standards like "Cheek to Cheek," under the direction of Jeff Halsey. These kids were very talented, providing thirty minutes of good music, much of it arranged by Dave Melle of the Toledo Jazz Orchestra. Following that nice warm-up, Pres. Ribeau introduced Bob Sebo, who welcomed the Freshmen to the stage with some very flattering remarks. The audience was pumped and ready.

The first two numbers featured the Freshmen backed by the BGSU Jazz Lab Band - very nice. Then the natty looking four guys launched a wonderful show as they sang and played many of the cuts from their new **FANTASTIC** "In Session" album. We heard "Somethings Gotta Give," "That Old Feeling," "You've Changed," Bob's solo "How Do You Keep the Music Playing" and Brian's "If I Only Had a Brain." They also did many of the old Fresh Standards like "Angel Eyes" and "Poinciana" for the appreciative crowd who also enjoyed Vince's whistling and Curtis' mastery of the brass. I heard someone say he counted 27 different songs performed. What a nice, long show! The CD table was very busy as the Freshmen signed CD's and visited with their fans, which included quite a few students. What a nice surprise to learn from Brian that his future wife is also a BGSU graduate! We wish them all the best as they begin Building Dreams together.

There were several FFS members on hand that night in northwest Ohio, from Michigan and Ohio and Indiana, including the Richardsons from Zanesville.



On stage Bowling Green, OH  
Note Bob with Vince's big bass  
which he played that night - one note!