

4-4-1988

04/04/1988 - BSU Reflects Pride

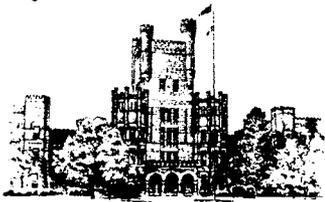
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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/04/1988 - BSU Reflects Pride" (1988). 1988. 122.
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STUDENT HOMETOWN NEWS BUREAU
MEDIA RELEASE

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88-54

April 4, 1988

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BSU REFLECTS PRIDE

By: Bob Shaver
Student Hometown News Bureau

CHARLESTON, IL.--Since its inception in 1967, the Black Student Union (BSU) has been a growing organization on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. The organization strives to promote awareness through cultural events and provide opportunities for academic leadership and social development. BSU currently has approximately thirty members and many non-members help out on a number of projects.

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According to Cecilia Brinker, Eastern's associate director of student activities, BSU "helps to show that minorities are concerned and involved in campus activities. In past years, BSU involvement on campus was very limited. We felt that increased involvement was very important not only for us, but for the rest of the campus."

In February, which was Black History Month, BSU sponsored a number of activities to generate campus involvement and increase public support. On the weekend of February 19-21, BSU sponsored a "Parents Appreciation Weekend" for the second year.

There was also a reception in the University Union for parents, students, faculty and staff.

Then on Saturday, EIU President Stan Rives was guest speaker at a special dinner. Other entertainment for the evening included a performance by the Unity Gospel Choir, a dramatic reading by Tracy Stewart and a slide show on the BSU.

Following these events, the Miss Black EIU pageant was held with six contestants vying for the crown. Stephanie Davis of Chicago, a sophomore majoring in medical technology, was named Miss Black EIU.

Following the pageant, a coronation dance with the theme "A Touch of Essence" was held.

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BSU also sponsors a number of community service projects. Most notable among these is BSU's commitment to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Coles County program.

"We had a real desire to do something for Big Brothers/Big Sisters," said Brinker. "Unfortunately since most of our members are not in Charleston for the entire year, which is one of the requirements to become a big brother or sister, we decided we would help out the next best way we could, which was financially."

This year, BSU members have held two bake sales, sold Valentine's Day novelty items and organized a bowl-a-thon to raise money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. They also sponsored a fashion show with all profits benefiting the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

All students attending Eastern are eligible to become members of BSU.