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EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Charleston, Illinois

news

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April 5, 1988

FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MISS BLACK EIU

By: Bob Shaver
Student Hometown News Bureau

CHARLESTON, IL--Stephanie Davis, a 1986 graduate of Lincoln Park Academy, was recently crowned as Miss Black Eastern Illinois University. The sophomore medical technology major is the daughter of Glenda Davis of Chicago.

Contestants in the pageant were judged on creative expression, African garment and talent.

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The purpose of the creative expression was to let the women symbolize themselves. The unique expression Davis created was, "When I smile, my smile is so bright, I have so much energy, I can lift you up and get you going. And when clothed in darkness, when you are so alone, I can be your light."

In the African garment portion of the contest, Davis wore a flowing black and white garment she designed. Davis explained to the audience that her dress was symbolic of her black heritage. "It is something that you must live with throughout your entire life and so you should be proud of it. My black heritage has supported me through rough times, good times and bad times. I know it will be there to see me on my road to success," she stated.

During the talent portion of the show, Davis danced to the Luther Vandross song "So Amazing."

"I've been dancing since I was eight," stated Davis. "It's something that I really love to do. I guess I was born with the talent."

Davis' personality also helped her capture the crown, as she was also named "Miss Congeniality."

Davis also sees herself as a role model for younger people. She has actively helped to increase minority enrollment at Eastern and she pushes her younger friends to attend college. "I push a lot of the kids at home that I left in high school to attend college. I feel that it's very important. It's

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MISS BLACK EIU

so hard to make a good strong living and have a strong financial background if you don't attend college."