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February 26, 1992

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MISS BLACK EIU CROWNED

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University junior zoology major Rhonda King, daughter of Mr. Charles R. King of Canton, Ohio, is the new "Miss Black EIU."

The Miss Black EIU Pageant is a cultural celebration that pays special tribute to the African American women at Eastern, while instilling a sense of pride, appreciation and cultural awareness in the African American heritage.

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MISS BLACK EIU

King, who was crowned at the 16th annual Miss Black EIU pageant Feb. 22, will reign as the new queen for the next year and fulfill all the duties and activities of Miss Black EIU.

Her court includes first runner-up Tamara Torrence, a sophomore psychology major from Chicago, and second runner-up Michelle Henderson, a sophomore theater major, also from Chicago.

The five contestants were judged on creative expression, African garment, talent, evening gown/impromptu questioning, and were awarded a variety of prizes.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR (Calumet City Star): Tamara Torrence is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Torrence of Calumet City. She is a 1990 graduate of Codrington High School.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR (Chicago Defender): Michelle Henderson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Henderson of Chicago. She is a 1987 graduate of Hyde Park Career Academy High School.



ANDREW VERCOUTEREN/Staff photographer

Above. Rhonda King, sophomore, is escorted by Leonard Watts during the evening gown and impromptu question part of the Miss Black EIU pageant.

ANDREW VERCOUTEREN/Staff photographer

Upper right. Rhonda King shows off her evening gown just before she wins the crown of 1992 Miss Black EIU.

KEYESHA MOBLEY/Staff photographer

Lower right. Shannon Ford models her clothing during the African garment category



King crowned as 1992 Miss Black EIU

An audience of approximately 400 parents and students watched the crowning of Rhonda King as Miss Black EIU 1992.

King, a sophomore zoology/physical therapy major from Canton, Ohio, was crowned by last year's Miss Black EIU, Karen Adkins.

The pageant was held Saturday night at the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union Grand Ballroom.

Runners up for Miss Black EIU were Michelle Henderson and Tamara Torrence.

Each contestant was judged in four categories: creative expression, African garment, talent and evening gown, and impromptu questioning.

For the creative expression category, the contestants performed skits that dealt with topics like frivolous spending and black history. In the African garment portion of the pageant, contestants dressed in African clothing they designed themselves and described what their African heritage meant to them.

During the talent competition the con-

tants performed songs or choreographed dances and acted out skits, while in the evening gown and impromptu question categories, contestants answered questions ranging from minority quota hirings and Black History Month in general.

Between each category musical entertainment was provided by Adkins, The "Phunky Pheel One's" featuring the A-Lover, Verge, and a duet by Ray McElroy and Caprisha Smyles.

Other contestants were Shannon Ford and Deneeda Rivers.

The masters of ceremony for the 16th annual pageant were Ron Zimmerman and Kim Purham, and it was opened by Jonathan Collins, Jr. who sang the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The judges for the contest were Judith Lyles, Priscilla Rice, Sammy Murini, Cedric Holt and Minabere Ibelema.

- Staff report

