Black Homecoming Queens and Kings

1960 - Marlene Owens
1974 - Crissi Roberts
1978 - Mary Major
1980 - Julie Washington
1983 - C. Suzanne Cutter
1989 - Kaelyn Cocroft
        Stephen Wilson
1991 - Michael Owens
1992 - Ayai Fubara
1993 - Leo Dwayne Devlin

Also see folders on: Alpha Phi Alpha – sponsor of the Miss Black Homecoming Queen pageant
        : Homecoming
        : Black Homecoming Activities *

* 10/93 – Now called African-American Homecoming
Black Homecoming

Pageant an alternative

By Maureen Kilkenny
Lantern staff writer

Black Homecoming, a four year tradition at Ohio State, is sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity to help promote minority involvement in school activities," according to Keith Herron, president of the fraternity.

Karen Massey, of WTVN news, will be hosting the dance and the crowning of the queen at the Ohio Union tomorrow night at 7:30. The queen will be chosen from 10 finalists. Three women will receive scholarships; the second runner-up will receive $100, first runner-up will receive $200 and the queen will receive a $300 scholarship.

"There are people that see it as a protest, but this is not a protest. We just do it as an option," Herron said.

The black fraternities and sororities involved do not have any other separate activities planned for the week of homecoming, but do participate in all of the regular festivities.

"It enhances the week, it adds a new dimension. It's not wrong to want to do something different," he said.

Although there have been negative responses to Black Homecoming from its inception in 1982, its purpose was to make minorities more comfortable in participating in OSU's homecoming, Herron said.

"Black students don't really feel comfortable at the (homecoming) dance," said Thomas Reed, chairman of this year's Black Homecoming. "People see it as separatism between black and white students, but it's the same as any other dance we have," Reed said.

This year's program will be "more professional," according to Reed. "We're trying to do something positive, we're not really trying to separate from the white community," Reed said. He added that they are encouraging all of their participants to run for the OSU homecoming court next year.

"It's not meant to draw away from the regular homecoming activities," said Don Conley, a judge for the program. Conley, who is running for Franklin County judge, is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and an alumnus of Ohio State.

The judges for Black Homecoming look for three characteristics in their queen: academic achievement, cultural awareness and school spirit.

"I don't know that anything negative comes from it," Conley said. "It involves more black students in homecoming," he said.

Other judges for the program are: Dr. William Nelson, of the Black Studies department; Linda Jackson, office of minority affairs; Tina Love, Black Student Programs; Danny Boone, director of Upward Bound; and John Gore, the regional director for the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Friday's program is open to the public.
Black Homecoming

Pageant, dance to highlight annual event

By NANCY SUTTON
Lantern staff writer

OSU black students are getting psyched up about becoming more involved in the spirit of campus homecoming by hosting a pageant and dance.

The sixth-annual OSU Black Homecoming will be held 7:30 tonight in the Ohio Union's West Ballroom.

The event will include a pageant to determine Miss OSU Black Homecoming Queen, with the top three finalists receiving scholarships donated by companies and community services in Columbus.

The queen will receive a $300 scholarship, the first runner-up will receive a $200 scholarship, and the second runner-up will receive a $100 scholarship.

Ten semi-finalists have already been chosen through preliminary interviews held last weekend. Although the semi-finalists will be announced at the pageant, all who entered will appear in the contest. Then, six judges will decide the top three finalists based on appearance, poise, cultural awareness, leadership and interviews.

Black administration, faculty and the former Miss OSU Black Homecoming Queen will be judging the event.

"Black Homecoming gives students a chance to come together, meet other people, and for the contestants to get exposure and recognition on campus," said Roderick Wallace, former homecoming chairman and member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

"For those OSU black students that would otherwise not be involved in such an activity, I feel this is their chance," Wallace said. "We always have a lot of people attend the pageant and dance; I am looking forward to a great time."

Following the pageant, there will be a reception in the main lounge, and refreshments will be served. A live band will perform during the pageant.

After the pageant and reception, the dance will begin in the West Ballroom and is open to the public. A disc jockey will provide the music.

"I don't want people to think our homecoming is a segregated event. What we are trying to do is get blacks more involved in the homecoming spirit and activities," said Melvin Woodberry, treasurer of Alpha Phi Alpha and member of the homecoming committee.

"We want to get our black ladies recognized in the celebration. If we didn't have this, I don't think many blacks would get involved in homecoming."

"We are expecting a big turnout this year," said Hugh Carrington, homecoming chairman. "Every year this event is held, OSU recognizes our homecoming, and more people attend the celebration. We also will be participating in the OSU parade this year."

Admission will be $3 at the door for both the dance and pageant or $2 for only one event.
Black Homecoming establishes a new tradition

History in the Making
Black homecoming encourages diversity

By Melissa Vickers
Lantern staff writer

There will be two homecoming queens for Ohio State this year.
The queen for the entire campus will be chosen by judges from the official homecoming steering committee.
The other, less-publicized queen, will be chosen by judges from Alpha Phi Alpha, the largest black fraternity on campus.
The Miss African American homecoming contest is now nine years old, said Harold Folsome, Alpha Phi Alpha member.

"This started as a way of combining our philanthropy efforts with helping the black community network," he said.
The contest is designed to encourage the black campus community to take pride in their successes, Folsome said.
Our fraternity and the other black fraternities and sororities think it's very important to support each other. Often African Americans are overlooked by society as a whole. It's up to us to show people what we're capable of," he said.

Educating the rest of the campus community that blacks are a positive force is another benefit of the contest, Dionne Jones, contest contestant, said.
"This is my second year in the contest," she said. "I think it is a valuable activity. I didn't win last year, but I met a lot of people, it gave me new confidence in myself.

The contest is necessary because blacks are often associated with negative things, she said.
"All people see in the media is that we've been busted for drugs, or robbing, or raping someone," she said.

"I want to be on the front page. I feel I can make a change, but I have to be up there where I can do it."
The contest does not detract from the campus-wide contest, said Phillip Sutton, president of the Interfraternity council.

"Actually, they have a better record for philanthropy than the campus homecoming court. The regular court has a reputation for failing to live up to their promises," he said.
The five black fraternities and four black sororities are very active in the community, Sutton said.
"They don't have houses, but that doesn't seem to slow them down. They really have an impact," he said.
It all boils down to helping the black students get to know each other and take pride in themselves, Folsome said.
"Like it or not, we all get shut out by the system at one point. It's good to have a support network to help out."
CORRECTION

In the story “Black homecoming encourages diversity” in Thursday’s Lantern, several quotes were attributed to Dionne Jones incorrectly. E. Renee Brandon was the individual who made the comments. The Lantern apologizes to Miss Jones for any inconvenience this error may have caused.
12th Annual homecoming is a success

By Ramona Evans
Lantern staff writer

Oct. 16 marked the 12th Annual African-American Homecoming at Ohio State. The event has been sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Kappa Chapter for the past 11 years.

The queen for 1992 is Khieka Jennings, a second-year pharmacy student from Pittsburgh. "I am so proud to represent the African-Americans of OSU and I take my position seriously and promise to honor my crown and all that goes along with it," Jennings said.

Vincent Johnson, a sophomore majoring in business operations management, was selected as the 1992 African-American Homecoming king. He said, "I think the African-American Homecoming is very positive for the community. I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for coming out and supporting us."

A total of 28 contestants competed in the pageant. This was the first year that men have been represented in the homecoming. The change was in response to many different factors, but mostly because the organization felt it was time to implement this change in the homecoming format.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was the first African-American greek letter organization, founded in 1906. Kappa Chapter at OSU has provided the homecoming for the African-American community as part of their pledge to provide support and leadership to the community.

Mark Young, a member of Kappa Chapter and awards coordinator of the program, explained why they hold a homecoming event separate of the campus activities.

"We host the African-American homecoming because there is a need for proper representation of African-Americans on this campus and also in homecoming activities. We feel that in these areas we have been alienated in the essence of judges, participants, and sponsors," Young said.

Rashaan Hall, vice president of the Kappa Chapter said, "For one moment in time, we can be represented by our own people. We as African-Americans on this campus have a voice, and we are committed to making a difference here at the Ohio State University."

The program concluded with a reception held in the Main lounge of the Ohio Union.
Homecoming pageant reflects cultural issues

By Donnica Burragne
Lantern staff writer


"It is a time for African-Americans to reflect on what the university offers and what we offer the university," said Rehaas Hall, president of Alpha Phi Alpha.

Kai Johnson, a senior majoring in anthropology, and Keir Gumbs, a sophomore in international relations, were crowned queen and king at the pageant.

"I really feel proud and privileged as an African-American woman to represent the OSU community," Johnson said.

"I feel as a representative it will be my job to promote a positive image of African-Americans," Gumbs said.

He said the African-American Homecoming is "a chance for the image of African-Americans to be enforced in a positive way. Too many times when you see African-Americans brought up in the media a negative image is portrayed. A positive image will be promoted for a positive American stereotype to be reinforced."

The pageant began with an introduction of the 18 contestants, both male and female, modeling evening wear before judges and the audience. Ten semi-finalists were selected on the basis of culture awareness, world events, eye contact, appearance and posture.

When asked what would be her main concerns if elected to public office, Pam Johnson, a sophomore contestant from Columbus, said she felt homelessness, gun control and abortion were issues of priority that needed to be addressed.

Contestants had varying responses to the question regarding federal assistance to Bosnia and Somalia.

Kai Johnson regards both issues as being very different. Americans seem to be more sympathetic to Bosnia because of the genocide of the Muslims, she said.

"The United States is spending too much time in both places because there are enough problems here," said Toni Hill, a freshman contestant from Columbus.

Keir Gumbs, a sophomore contestant from California, addressed what the black community needs to do to become more unified.

"What needs to happen is the black community needs to come together and get these outside influences out of our community. Without doing this we are going to be victims of our environment that we have no control over," Gumbs said.

The 1993 OSU Homecoming court made an appearance before the crowd along with the 1992 African-American Homecoming Queen Khleka Jennings.

Jennings told the future king and queen that wearing the crown would be representing all African-Americans at Ohio State.

The first runners-up were Shawn Irby and Zaneta Turpin and the second runners-up were David Ortiz and Shelly Madison.

Kim Palmer, from Cincinnati, said she thinks having a separate homecoming for African-American students is a good idea for Ohio State.

"It gives African-American students a chance to participate in something like this. It shows the positive aspects of African-American students at OSU," Palmer said.
MS. AFRICAN-AMERICAN HOMECOMING QUEEN

University Libraries wishes to extend its congratulations to Kai A. Johnson, who was crowned Ms. African-American Homecoming Queen 1993 at a homecoming pageant sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha. The University's homecoming court was also in attendance. Ms. Johnson is a student assistant in the Black Studies Library.
Black Homecoming king, queen crowned

By Allison Slocum
Lantern staff writer

Christopher Harris and Devanee Miller were crowned king and queen Thursday night at the 15th Annual African-American Homecoming Pageant.

The pageant, hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, was designed to represent the African American community here on Ohio State's campus in the Homecoming festivities.

"It is a very positive thing for greek organizations to sponsor an event for the African American community," Miller said.

Eleven male and 15 females applied for the court. Contestants were interviewed and attended a pageant seminar, given by Joyce Vaughan in which the contestants learned about their African history, Kwanzaa, and leadership qualities. They were also required to do community service and raise $100. The money raised was used as a scholarship to pay for half the tuition in winter and spring for both the king and queen.

After personal introductions and a question and answer session, five male and five female finalists were selected.

Finalists were then asked another series of questions by a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Some of these questions were based on subjects of current political issues. One of the questions was: How do you feel about the controversy surrounding Issue 2, the Disability Act, and what do you pose as a possible solution to the problem?

When all the points were tallied, the judges chose Harris and Miller. Some of the judges were Tyrome Alexander and Ron Parker both advisors of Alpha Phi Alpha; Cynthia McDonald-Devese, African American Students Services coordinator; and Brian Cunningham.

Harris said, of the pageant, "It was a great experience and anyone who has the opportunity should participate in it."

Harris, a freshman majoring in economics and market analysis, plans to pursue a graduate degree in public policy, and become an administrator at the federal level.

Miller is a senior majoring in chemical engineering who plans to work for a pharmaceutical company after graduation.