

Pageant to crown first Big Eight queen

By Ward W. Triplett III

Contestants for the first Miss Black Big Eight Pageant won't start coming to Lincoln until Friday. However, that should not affect the typical pageant components when the ceremonies begin at 9:30 p.m. Saturday in the Nebraska Union Ballroom.

"We're going to have the same things in this pageant that they always have," Dawn Brown, coordinator of the pageant, said. We'll have the introduction segment, talent competition, a question and answer segment and an overall appearance.

"Basically, all the queens have done the same things at their own pageants. I feel they're mature women, and this isn't anything new to them. We don't have to teach them how to walk and talk."

The Miss Black Big Eight Pageant is slightly different from most of the events

during this weekend's Big Eight Conference on Black Student Government. Unlike the other events, the pageant is sponsored by the Big Eight Council, the 24-member (three from each school) legislative body of the black student governments.

Following a suggestion from African Peoples Union members last spring, Nebraska representatives Charlene Maxey, Eugene Tolston and Cynthia Gooch took the idea to the council meeting in Stillwater, Okla. The council suggested making the event an annual part of the conference.

Each Big Eight school had a Miss Black pageant. This year, Missouri and Iowa State had pageants for the first time.

Brown said she would have liked to make the pageant more challenging for the contestants.

"Maybe they would have done a dance step together and I probably would have

tried to add something to the introduction," Brown said.

The contestants will have one rehearsal at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, with optional stage time permitted that afternoon. They will be judged in four categories by a panel of eight judges, one from each school.

"I think it's going to be like any other pageant . . . if people are out there for you, they're going to let you know they're there. I don't think it will develop into any kind of rivalry between the schools."

As of Friday, Brown said she had heard from all the contestants except the Oklahoma State representative.

She said the pageant will be worth seeing because it will be varied.

"We're going to get women from different schools here to compete," she said.

"Some of them, like Miss Oklahoma, are from other places outside of the Big Eight

so you can see entertainment from a different part of the country."

Brown, who was also instrumental in organizing the Mr. Black Collegiate Pageant at UNL last month, said the Miss Black Big Eight ceremony is important to its contestants because of the advancement feature.

"I watch a lot of pageants on television and you never see black women advance in that," she said.

"It just seems like Miss America, for example, is supposed to represent America, and people feel that a black woman just couldn't do that. We have to have a white queen representing us, but she can't represent me, because I'm not white," she said.

"The Miss Black Big Eight is a small way to do that, but the queen will be able to say she represents a whole area, and other black women can look up to her," Brown said.



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Arnold Grinvalds

Mayoral candidate stresses vision and compassion

By Lisa Davis

Government and its officials need four major qualities: morality, compassion, intelligence and vision UNL student mayoral candidate Arnold Grinvalds said Sunday.

"The government lacks these qualities now and what is needed is someone to come in and take charge," he said, announcing the platform for his candidacy at Commonplace, 333 N. 14th St.

"I feel that educating the public is the most important thing," he said. People need to be aware of what's going on and the government is one of the best sources, he said.

Education in schools is very important, Grinvalds said. Parents don't usually teach their children world realities, so schools must. Most criminals have problems which stem from high school, he said. Educating children and making them want to learn will cut back on the crime rate, he said.

Grinvalds emphasized Lincoln's need for better counseling programs and more lenient jailing procedures for drug abusers. He stressed the need for stricter drunken driving laws and the importance of controlling the sale of alcohol by limiting the number of outlets.

If elected mayor, he said he would veto every new liquor license approved by the Lincoln City Council unless a more adequate ordinance is passed.

He also said a \$10,000 limit should be placed on the amount of money each candidate running for a government can spend on campaigning and advertising. Many times a person gets elected because he has enough money to advertise extensively, he said. Grinvalds said he is not spending much money on his campaign and that he is focusing on letting the public know his stands on issues, not just advertising his name.

Grinvalds' platform expresses his desire to better Lincoln's bad points and to promote the city's good points.

"By emphasizing what Lincoln has to offer, we can promote tourism and bring in extra revenue for the city," he said.

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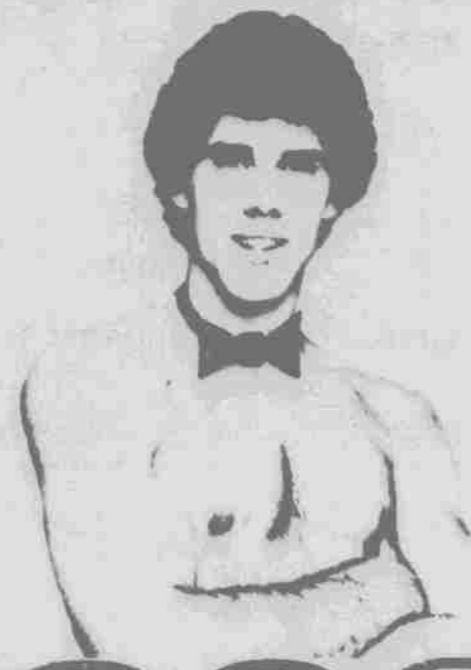
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