

arts/entertainment

Miss Black UNL winner 'just couldn't believe it'

By Paulette Brown

The Miss Black UNL Pageant came off successfully Sunday evening for Judy Henderson, a 22-year-old junior in accounting and psychology from Omaha, when she was crowned Miss Black UNL.

Her coronation concluded a pageant in which 11 contestants vied for the crown in front of a receptive audience of more than 200 people.

Henderson is a former ASUN senator and a member of Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma, both honors societies in which a 3.5 grade-point average is required. Henderson is also a member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority and works for Lincoln Telephone Co.

Henderson, who was surprised by the award, said, "I don't believe it—it's just like on TV."

The pageant originator, Joanna Lovett, a 23-year-old Little Rock, Ark., graduate student in elementary education was first runner-up.

Song to mother

The pageant was a combination of talent competition, question-and-answer session and personal interviews with judges.

Henderson played guitar and sang an original tune dedicated to her mother. When Henderson was young, she said, her mother told her she could play but would have to stop playing when she was older and "get on with serious business."

Henderson delivered an original speech entitled, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A Message to My People," in which she traced black heritage from slavery, the Jim Crow days to now.

Henderson often repeated "no more mourning" to her summation "that a bright future awaits blacks."

'Love has no color'

When Lovett was asked, "What are your views on interracial marriage?" she replied,

"People should not be bound by race, color or creed because love has no color."

Cheryl McAfee, second runner-up, a 20-year-old architecture junior from Wichita, Kan., did a song-and-dance routine from the black opera *Porgy & Bess*.

McAfee said her goal "is to be a well-known architect." McAfee was asked, "How would you encourage black students to be a part of black organizations on campus?" She replied: "I would disseminate enough material concerning the organizations and their objectives."

Normalee Murray, third runner-up, a 20-year-old animal science major from Jamaica, performed a dance entitled "A Black Woman's Lament."

Murray was asked, "If you were a black mother, with the dearth of black culture depicted in the media, how would you project black history to your child?" She replied, "I would do it through drawings, books, music and any other means at my disposal."

Chains imposed

Lateefa Hale, a 23-year-old elementary education major, read "Let Our People Go," a history of "blacks once having physical chains imposed on them to how the chains have now been put on our minds, and how we have to come to accept ourselves as who and what we are."

Sharon Rosser, a 23-year-old business teacher education major, was asked, "What is the number one quality you feel a black man should possess?" Her answer, "Respect for his woman."

Carla Johnson, 17, was the youngest contestant. The freshman broadcasting major sang Barbara Streisand's "Everything." Johnson said the song "sums up what I want in life."

Lavetta Chamberlain, 23, a senior business education major, read "Changes, My



Daily Nebraskan photo

Judy Henderson, center, is congratulated by Leslie Washington, left, and Joanna Lovett, right, after being crowned Miss Black UNL Saturday.

Man," a study of the fallacies of relationships between black men and women.

Deresa Oliver, 20, a junior community health major, was asked, "How would you go about protecting the black community from policy brutality?" Oliver said, "I believe we should arm ourselves and form black vigilantes."

Heidi Lynch, 20, a junior broadcasting major, said, "It's not what you have, but what you do with it while you have it."

Jacqueline Dixon, 18, a freshman human development major, did a dance pantomiming God creating man. Prior to performing, she said, "I hope everyone can see how great God is through my performance."

The panel of judges included John McCaa from WOWT, an Omaha television station, Michael Jones, a reporter for KETV in Omaha, and Tommi Jackson, a professor of English at UNL.

Writer's newest is 'whimsically melancholy' diary

By Michael Zangari

Initially nosing through Richard Brautigan's new book, *The Tokyo-Montana Express* is like spending an evening with a brilliant but senile aunt. You wait out the longer meanderings of her mind for the gold nuggets you know are there. And you don't regret a moment spent.

book review

Structurally, the book is made up of first-person vignettes journal entries in form from Brautigan's visits to Montana and Japan. There are a few short stories tossed in too, but they are erratic and oddly placed.

The vignettes reads like highly-personal dreamscapes, odd moments out from Brautigan's personal universe. He picks out the tiniest detail and pokes at it with non sequiturs and mixed metaphors at times, and with blinding clarity at others. Brautigan's prose is sparse and even simplistic at times. This can make reading deceptively loose.

What holds this collection together is Brautigan's voice. The farther you get into the book, the more personal the voice becomes. It's like reading the diary of a stranger. It has a whimsically melancholy air about it. You begin to feel a personal bond with the man and his infatuations—failed businesses, people he will never know—getting older.

The flaws in the book become blanks, quizzical spaces in the overall portrait he is painting. Areas of shadows. It is true to the form of the book. Who would want to be responsible for everything they put in their journals?

Brautigan offers all unashamedly for exactly what they are. He is quietly funny and blatantly self-indulgent. To my mind, that is what makes the book work. For all the emp-

ty spaces in this book, it is a personal record and a glimpse behind the curtains thrown up in Brautigan's other novels.

With his outrageous person gone, Brautigan stands alone. He approaches few big issues, just the day-to-day visions, like a string of pearls through one man's mind.

He is a man who can spend hours lost in the sad smile of a stranger and hate the smugness in the smile of another. A man who has a keen sense of loss and watches the passage of time.

The subject matter is wide. Sample titles read like a bizarre verbal kaleidoscope: "Skylab at the Graves of Abbott and Costello," "Clouds Over Egypt," "Shrine of Carp," "The Irrevocable Sadness of Her Thank You," to name a few.

Brautigan's vision is sharp, and directed at the wind in this book. It is diffuse and sensitive reading, personal.

Poet-author Richard Brautigan will be at the Nebraska Bookstore, 1135 R Street, Friday between noon and 1 p.m. to sign copies of his latest book, *The Tokyo-Montana Express*.

Brautigan is probably best known for his book, *Trout Fishing in America*, a loose collection of his prose-poetry. He is the author of a wide variety of novels, including *The Abortion* (a 1966 Romance), *A Confederate General from Big Sur*, *The Hawkline Monster* (a Gothic Western), *Sombrero Fall-out* (a Japanese novel), and *Willard and His Bowling Trophies* and *Dreaming of Babylon*. He has also done several volumes of poetry.



Richard Brautigan