

Former Mont Alto Student Claims Penn State Royalty at UP as Homecoming King 2005

Christina Green

Theodore "TJ" Jackson, a former Mont Alto student, won the crown for the 2005 Penn State Homecoming King on October 28th. TJ was highly active on our campus, especially in the Student Government Association and Black Student Union, and helped to promote many of the activities on campus that we take part in today.

As a senior at University Park, TJ is in the Smeal College of Business as a Bachelor of Science candidate in Finance. He has fulfilled numerous leadership roles at Penn State as the Chief of Staff for the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments, Co-Director of the MLK Day of Service, Parade Captain of Homecoming 2005, and Transfer and COA Co-Chair of Fresh START 2005.

The process for the 2005 Penn State Homecoming Court started at the end of the 2005

spring semester. At that time, Penn State students could nominate any fellow student to apply for the Homecoming Court. After being notified of his nomination, TJ completed the application and paid a \$20 fee to apply for the court. All submitted applications were then reviewed by the overall Homecoming Committee who chose the top ten males and top ten females as the semi-finalists. When TJ found out that he was in the top ten, he was interviewed by a panel of Student Affairs Administrators who asked him questions about his involvement around Penn State and the reasons why he decided to apply for Homecoming King. The night of his interview, TJ was called to let him know that he made it to the final five as one of the finalists who make up the Homecoming Court.

As part of the court, TJ made appearances at almost all

of the Homecoming Events where he was able to get to know many other Penn Staters.

The appearances that TJ made allowed students to get to know TJ and the other finalists so that they could vote throughout the week of the Homecoming game for their pick of the King and Queen. TJ feels that much of his support came from students of the Mont Alto campus who were also able to vote online for the king and queen. After participating in the parade on the Friday of Homecoming, TJ took part in the Pep

Rally at Old Main where he was introduced with the other

finalists in the court, and was announced as the King.

One of TJ's best memories of his experience as a finalist in the Homecoming court was when he was introduced at the Pep Rally because he had so many friends in the crowd who cheered for him. He also enjoyed the appearances he made at the events throughout October. After the Homecoming game, TJ said, "I went to most of the events because it is such an honor to be on the court, and I wanted to show that I considered it an honor." It certainly is a great honor to be named the 2005 Penn State Homecoming King, and is a great representation of the best students that we have had and will have in the future at Penn State Mont Alto.

Congratulations, TJ!



TJ Jackson and Tahiiarah Allen: Penn State Homecoming King and Queen

Mont Alto Drama Club Plans Performance and More

Bobby Casiano

The Penn State Mont Alto Drama Club is back. After not being active for two semesters they have managed to revise a constitution from the seventies. The officers for the Mont Alto Stage Kompany (M.A.S.K) are President/ Director Katherine Sterner, Vice President/Stage Manger Tim Thompson, Secretary John Payne, Sound Technician Ben Orr, and Advisor Professor Nancy Funk. According to President Sterner, they are "working on a new production titled *The Fantasticks*." The cast is made up of John Payne as Matt, Kat Sterner as Luisa, Jessica Smith as Stephanie, Mendi Raaufi as

Mellomy, Ryan Progin as Martimer, Teri Njuguna as the mute, Garrett Shourds as El Gallo.

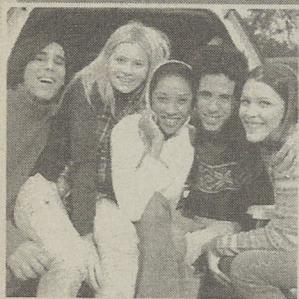
According to Sterner, "*The Fantasticks* is the longest-running musical in the world" and "When it opened on May 3, 1960, Dwight Eisenhower was still president of the United States." Sterner adds, "It is melodic, humorous, at times sentimental, it manages, like the show itself, to be both simple and complex at the same time." M.A.S.K Secretary Payne states, "*The Fantasticks* is a typical Romeo and Juliet story." It involves "two parents wanting their children to

marry; however, their plots to get them together turn out to be deceitful and heartbreaking for both lovers Luisa and Matt." Performances will be taking place Friday, December 9 through Saturday, December 10, 2005 at 7:00 in the General studies auditorium.

M.A.S.K is looking forward to creating more productions in the spring semester and is looking for more people to join. For any more information on M.A.S.K. contact Nancy Funk at 717-749-6204.

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