



File Photo

Former Provost Arthur Smith stands with USC's last homecoming queen, Elizabeth Ann Loadholt, during the 1990 Homecoming festivities.

Homecoming queen issue not important, students say

By MELISSA TENNEN
Assistant News Editor

Having a USC homecoming queen is no longer an issue of concern for most students.

Many students have become apathetic about the issue, and most said it would be nice to have one since it is tradition, but diversity is a difficult issue to handle.

Since the 1991 decision by the Homecoming Commission to stop sponsoring the queen, no other organization has stepped forward to handle the task.

"It's just a pain. You would have to hire poll-takers, get the ballots. It's a long and difficult process," SGA Vice President Kelli Lister said.

Within Greek Life, the queen is a dead issue, Coordinator for Greek Life Rick Gant said.

"Everyone is over that," he said.

President John Palms said, "It's a student matter. The administration should not dictate it. A vast majority of the campus was concerned with the diversity issue."

Lister said what she would like to see is the queen selected on the basis of service to the community, among other acts, instead of her appearance.

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John Palms
USC President

but it should be done in a cautious manner," she said.

Student Sen. Owen Donley said, "I would love to have a queen, but it's impossible. There is too much controversy."

"Until a method is found, it is unfeasible," he said.

Last semester, student government conducted a poll with one of the questions reading, "Do you want USC to have a homecoming queen?"

The students voted 80 percent in favor of a queen. The poll also said 34 percent of the student body was not in favor of an alternative method, 28 percent were in favor of recognizing students, 17.7 percent were in favor of having a representative from each class, and 17 percent wanted a

king and queen election.

Iana Myerson, chairwoman of the homecoming commission, said the attendance of 1991's homecoming game was not affected by the lack of a queen, but by rain instead.

The reason for not having a queen was rooted in allegations that the selection process was racist.

Myerson said the process was dividing the university and homecoming wasn't meant to do that.

Junior Matt Evans said, "I would like to have one just for tradition."

Many students had no opinion on the subject.

"It's sad that we don't have one, since most schools do," junior Kimberly Thomas said. "It (the selection) should entail accomplishment and what she can do to help the university."

But freshman Kara Fincher said, "It doesn't bother me. It's a popularity contest."

Many cited tradition as being the main reason for having a queen, but not many students felt passionate about the issue. "We should stick along with tradition. Something is left out," freshman McCrae Gore said.

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