



Suzanne Westenhoefer
makes us laugh
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Portland, Oregon FREE

More than Gowns and Crowns

Portland's absolutely fabulous court members work hard for the money they raise

by Oriana Green

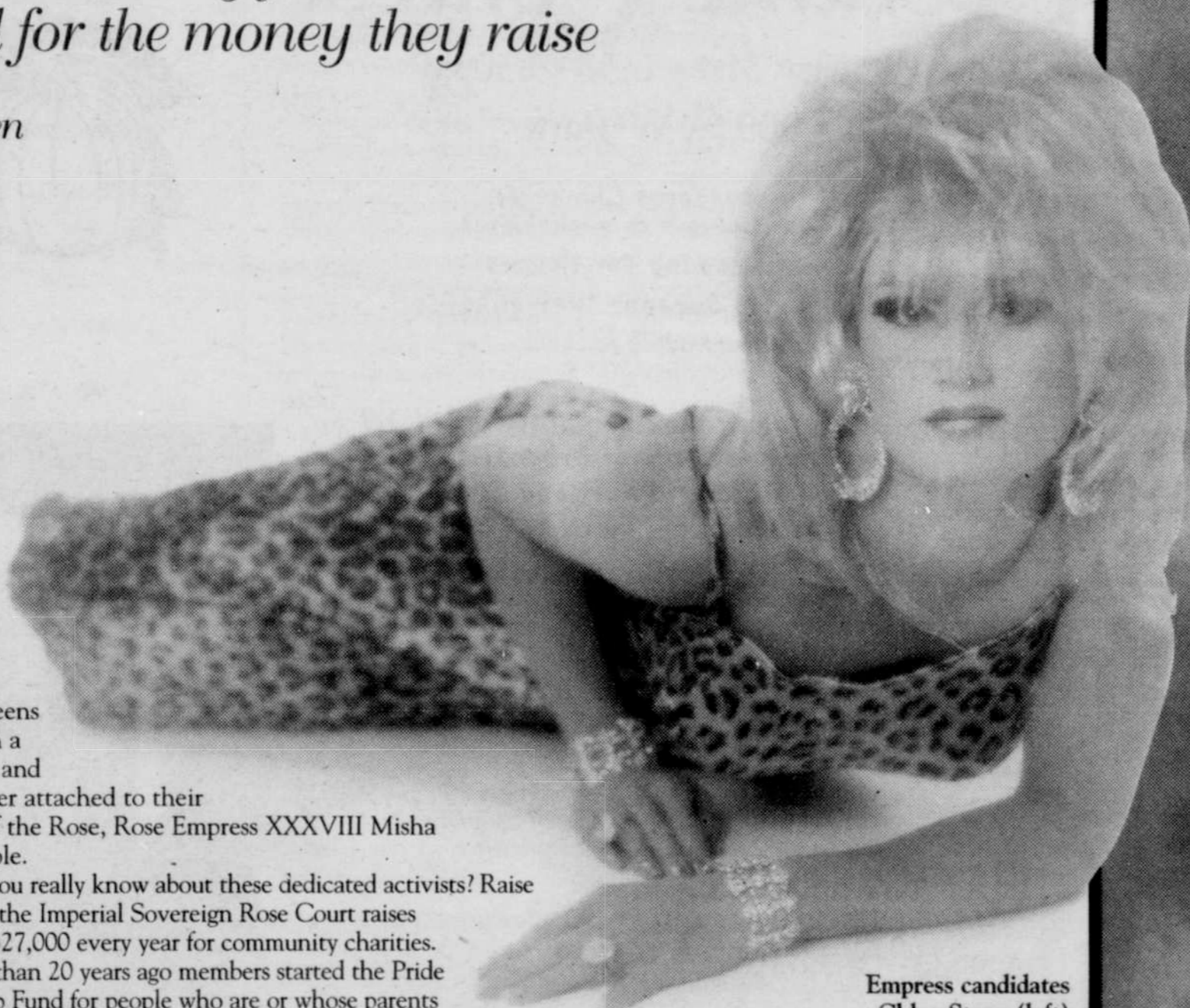
By now, most people have met some glamour queens with titles longer than a shoulder-length glove and roman numerals forever attached to their names—the Beauty of the Rose, Rose Empress XXXVIII Misha Rockafeller, for example.

But how much do you really know about these dedicated activists? Raise your hand if you knew the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court raises between \$22,000 and \$27,000 every year for community charities.

For example, more than 20 years ago members started the Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund for people who are or whose parents are gay, lesbian, bi or trans. To date, more than \$100,000 has been raised and awarded.

And although all manner of drag shows are put on for that purpose, members have also thrown bowl-a-thons, movie nights, campouts, dinners, car washes and, yes, even bake sales. Virtually every event is also a fund-raiser.

Officially founded in 1971, ISRC this year celebrates the 30th anniversary of its first elected empress. But she was preceded by 13 other titleholders from earlier organizations, so tiaras have been handed out here for close to 40 years now.



Empress candidates
Chloe Stone (left)
and Poison Waters



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by Tom Stevenson

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