

CULTURE

Bring out the sunscreen and start lubing up, because it's time for the 16th annual Peacock in the Park. Scheduled for June 30 at Washington Park Amphitheater, this outdoor picnic and drag show fund-raiser is one of Portland's largest queer events.

Former Imperial Sovereign Rose Court Empress Lady Elaine Peacock started the fundraiser in 1987 to benefit the Audria M. Edwards Scholarship Fund—named after her mother—which has awarded more than \$80,000 in grants since its inception. Although entry is absolutely free of charge, all your tips to the entertainers go to the fund. This year alone, \$15,500 will be awarded to gay, lesbian, bi and trans students or the children of queer parents who reside in Oregon or southwest Washington.

Besides raising money for a good cause, the event is also a great way to get together in celebration of Pride. Much like the Pride festival, Peacock offers a relaxed, upbeat and positive environment, allowing revelers to take comfort and joy in the strength of our community.

Scholarship fund administrator and show coordinator Kimberlee Van Patten agrees. "There are no political announcements or speeches," she says, "just good music, good friends and good fun!"

So what should one expect? "Family from all walks of

Cocktail party!

Peacock in the Park is geared up and ready to celebrate

BY MICHAEL WAYNE KECK

life," Van Patten claims, "from dykes to femmes, from drag queens to leather daddies, they are all there." And feel free to bring the kids, she emphasizes. "We try and keep the show clean, so it's not offensive to children and unsuspecting passers. We get a lot of people just wandering by...after a few minutes watching the show they usually end up with a snow cone or hot dog and a smile."

Expect to do a lot of smiling under the auspices of catty hostesses Poison Waters and Maria, who will, no doubt, bring some lively humor, big hair and bad-ass baubles to the

festivities.

The picnic and music—some live, some disc jockeyed—begin at noon,

but organizers note you won't get a good seat if you don't come early. The show starts at 2:30 p.m. with the scholarship presentation.

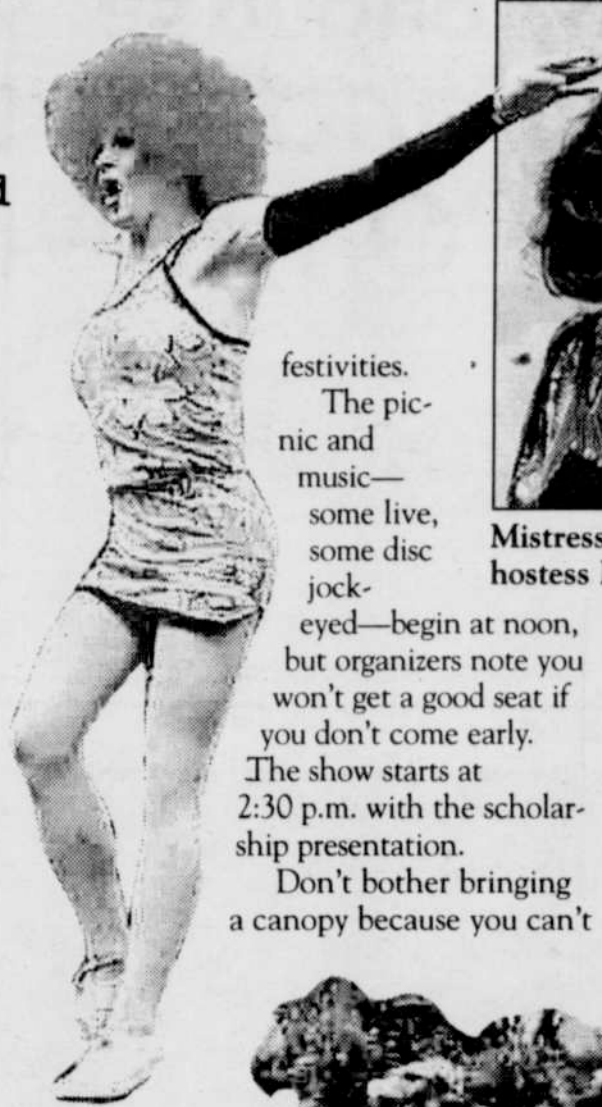
Don't bother bringing a canopy because you can't

put it up, and don't bother driving—parking is virtually nonexistent. But don't cry, because shuttles are available from both Embers Avenue, 110 N.W. Broadway, and the Red Cap Garage, 1035 S.W. Stark St. They'll be running continually for your riding pleasure from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tri-Met also has a shuttle bus available from the Oregon Zoo MAX station.

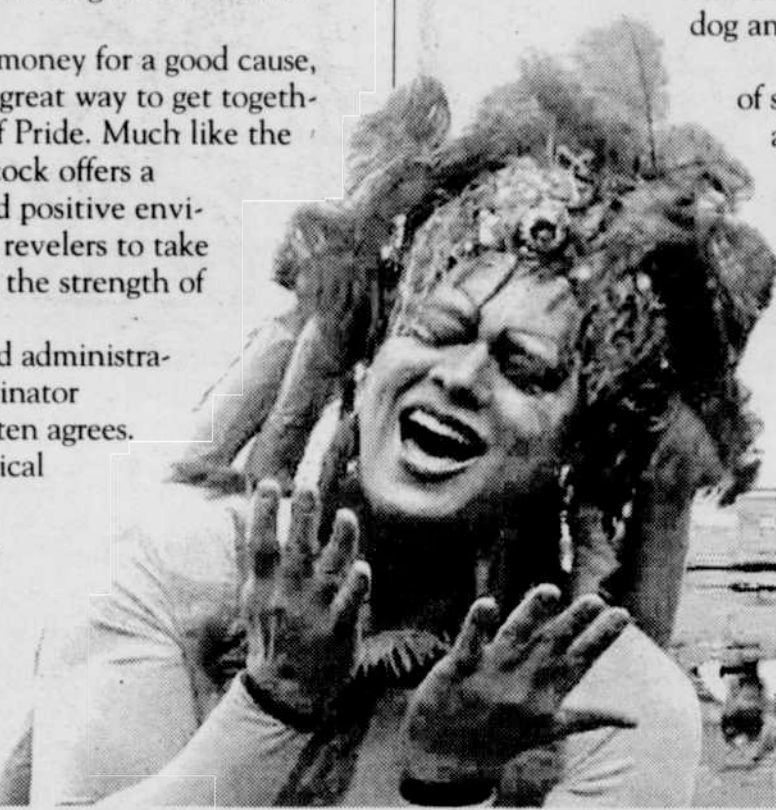
Moderate use of alcohol is allowed, but the drag queens will kick your ass if you get too drunk. However, Embers probably won't mind if you decide to join most of Peacock's crowd there for the special after-show Beer Bust: all the Miller you can legally be served until 10 p.m. for \$5. (Count me in.)

Contact PEACOCK IN THE PARK at 503-281-2811 or www.peacockinthepark.com.

MICHAEL WAYNE KECK is a Portland free-lance writer who has never seen more cock in one of his articles. You can thank him at michaelwaynekeck@hotmail.com.



Mistress of ceremonies Poison Waters (left) and your hostess Maria



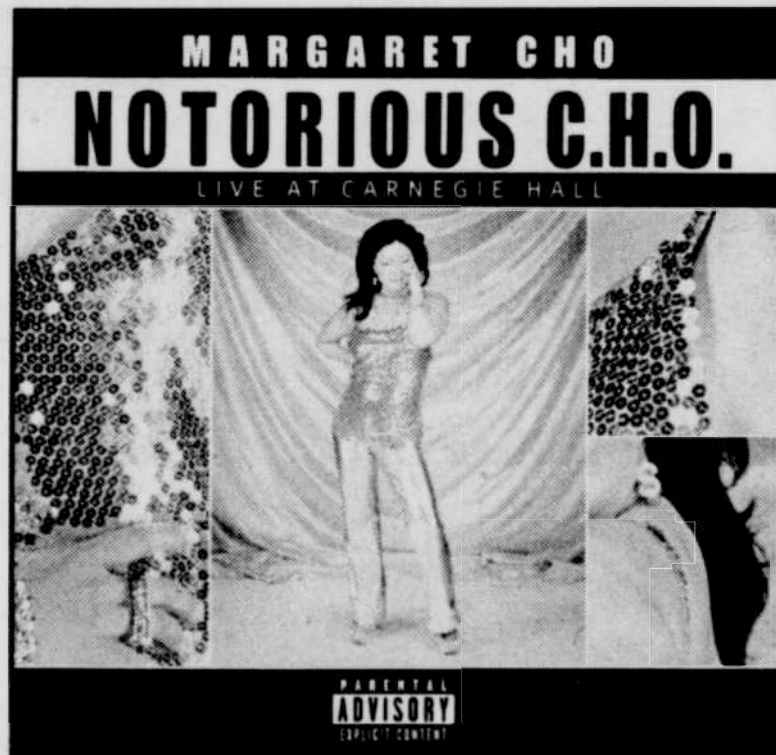
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