

and money to organizations that benefit Portland and Oregon's queer youth populations.

"I wanted to have a title, and so I became White Knight. I was so involved in the court system, and you can actually do more when you have a title," explains Josef. With that in mind, he decided to run for Emperor. "You can do a lot more fund-raisers; you have a lot more access to people and places."

Although running unopposed guarantees his title, it hasn't stopped Josef from campaigning night after night. "Yes, you want people to vote for you, but the other reason [for campaigning] is to get people familiar with the court...Shelley and Poison have really done a lot this year—reaching out to other sectors of the community. I would really like to continue that."

One might wonder how a new monarch is to cope with the responsibilities of reigning over one of the most active court systems on the West Coast. Rest assured there are plenty of voices from the past to guide the new Emperor and Empress as they navigate their way through a maze of coronations, lots and lots of outfits and flying the friendly skies with large glittery metal scepters.

### Listen to your elders

At this year's coronation the Rose Court will honor the single, double and triple decade anniversaries of three former Emperesses and one Emperor. Their collective sage advice

reflects years of experience from some of Portland's most beloved and memorable monarchs.

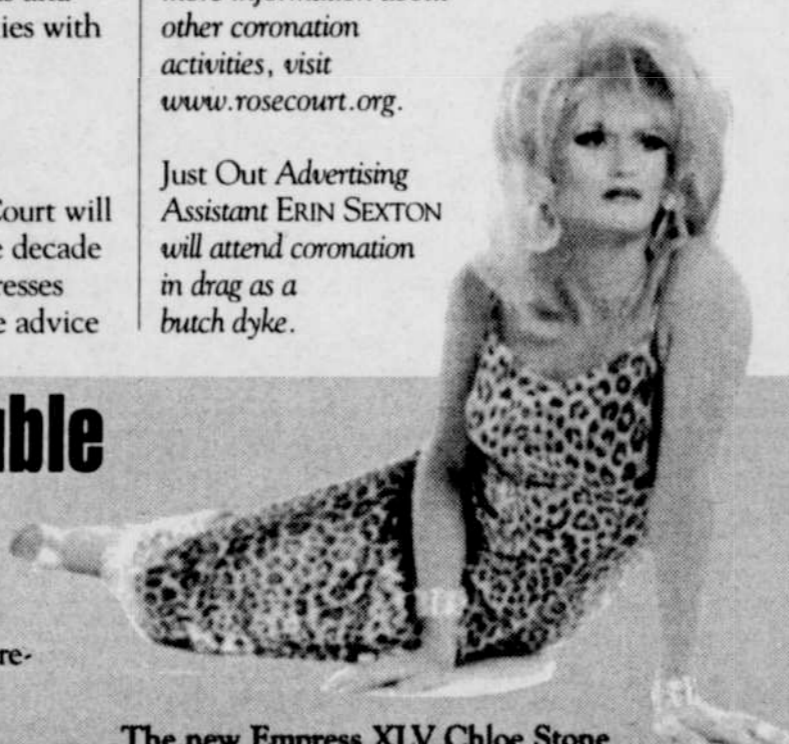
Remarking that when he was Empress there were a mere three cities to visit for coronations, 30th Anniversary Empress Darcelle XV (Walter Cole) warns, "Don't try to do it all!"

Empress Champagne XXV (Duane Brooks), hopes "the new Empress sets positive examples...for this is how you teach the new 'kids.' Be all you can be, no matter who beats you down, as you will rise above it."

Rose Emperor XIX Jim Ploeg reminds the new Emperor to "Enjoy your reign, serve your community well." Finally, Empress Michelle Craig XXXV (Bill Spencer) suggests: "The most successful Emperesses have had their own unique sense of style and personality. Be yourself! Being Empress is a lot of work, but it is also a wonderful and fulfilling fantasy.... Make the most of it!"

CORONATION 2002 begins 6 p.m. Oct. 26 at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn, 8439 N.E. Columbia Blvd. Tickets are \$35 at the door. For more information about other coronation activities, visit [www.rosecourt.org](http://www.rosecourt.org).

Just Out Advertising Assistant ERIN SEXTON will attend coronation in drag as a butch dyke.



The new Empress XLV Chloe Stone

## Asking for trouble

Everyone knows every good pageant includes a bunch of meaningless questions. Not to be outdone, *Just Out* poses our own pre-coronation queries.

### Why do you think you deserve to be Emperor/Empress?

**Chloe Stone:** I don't at all feel I deserve to be Empress; this would imply I am owed something. I have 10 years of experience with the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court and have actively worked toward the goal of becoming Empress. So when I am crowned, it will be the result of hard work, determination and perseverance.

**Josef Foxx:** I don't think I deserve to be Emperor; it is just fate. I knew I was destined for great things ever since I played the Frog Prince in elementary school.

What will be your first act as Emperor/Empress should you win?

**CS:** To walk off the stage and hug my partner, who has put up with all of this insanity...and possibly check my face for any running mascara.

**JF:** The first act will be taking the show on tour to Tacoma's coronation! Hope we don't get the hook like the old *Gong Show*....

Have you bribed the judges? What with?

**CS:** To become Emperor or Empress you must be voted in, not judged. No bribes here,

but during my campaign I have handed out fun little mementos of my three-week campaign (T-shirts, jewelry, buttons, etc.).

**JF:** I don't have to bribe them...ever seen my smile? :)

You're the only contestant...what if you don't win?

**CS:** The thought hadn't crossed my mind. But, in all honesty, you're never prepared to be a winner if you're not prepared to suffer loss.

**JF:** Then I forgot to vote for myself!

Do you think newfound celebrity spoils nice people? (I mean, look at what a bitch Poison became....)

**CS:** Poison became?! Seriously, I don't believe celebrity has anything to do with being Empress.... I'm a little more low-key; my hopes for this year are that it will not be as much about celebrity as about the team.... It's a blessing to give, and we have so many wonderful folks who are so dedicated but rarely get to be in the spotlight. It's my goal to share those blessings this year with those people.

**JF:** It might change nice people, but it will have no effect on me!

# PORTLAND CENTER STAGE

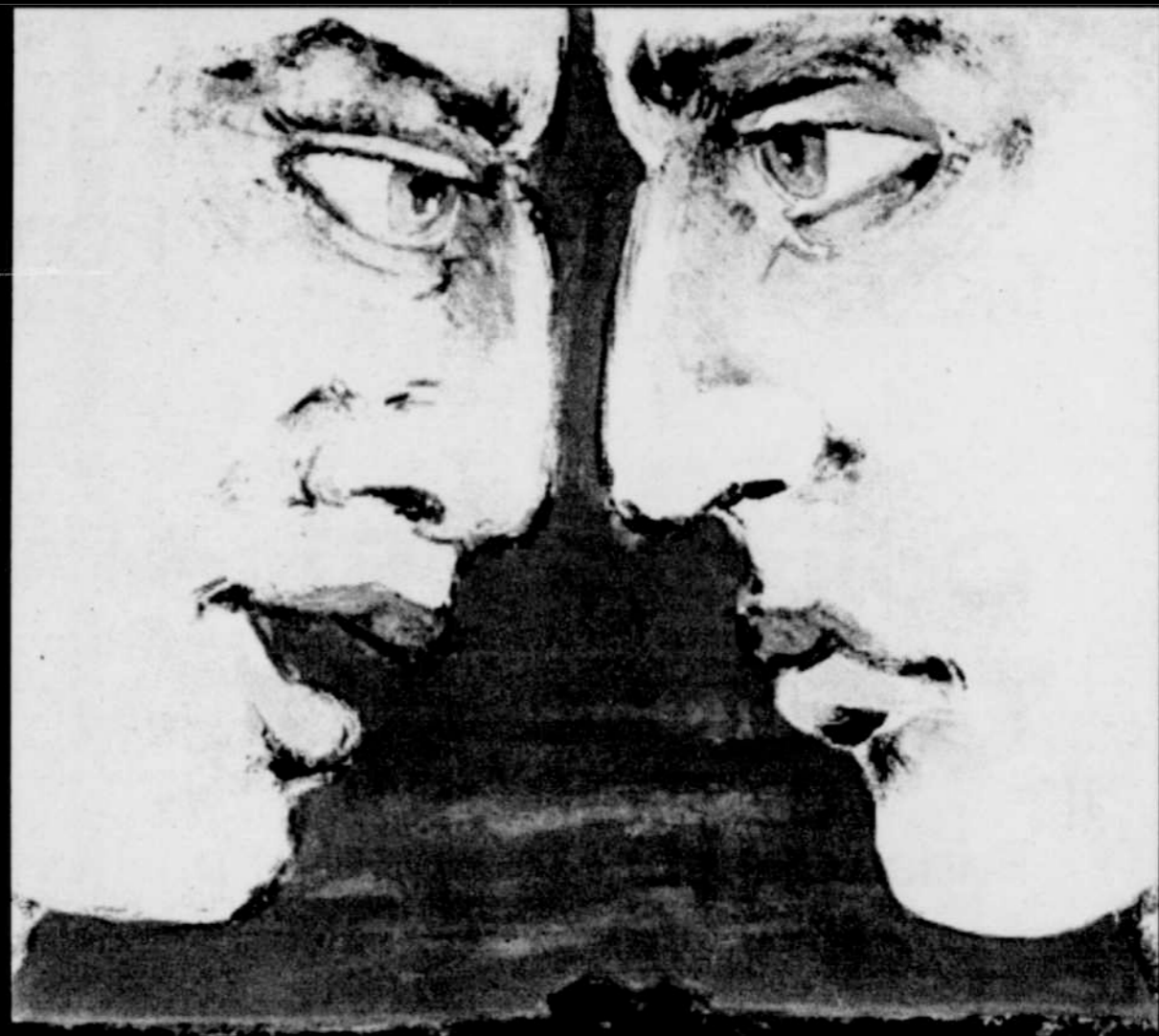


Illustration by Danelle Jones

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