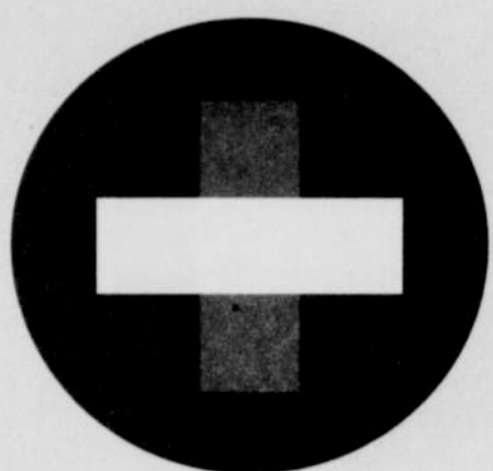




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NORTHWEST news

CLUB KIDS AND CLUB LIFE

Youth celebrate Pride

by Sarah Dougher

The Lovely Doctor Chance de Valmont XXV takes a moment out of his day working at a school to talk to me about his thoughts on Pride.

Twenty-one years old, Chance has been performing since he was a teen-ager and now works as the booker for Club Escape, Portland's underage queer mecca.

The Pride events at Escape include a "Got Pride" show June 18 featuring club kids, drag queens and special performances by the Rosebud and Thorn titleholders starting at 1 a.m. There will also be a dance-'til-you-drop contest.

Club Escape will be getting together around noon June 18 to create a float for the Pride Parade. Staying with this year's theme, "Every-

day People," the kids plan on decorating their float with people inside Barbie Doll boxes.

Chance is excited about Pride this year, but also sounds a note of skepticism.

"It will be interesting to see how the community reacts with the political changes this year," he notes. He is disappointed about the route change for the parade and feels it shows a great disrespect to the club scene in general. "I believe they are ignoring us," he comments.

There are elements of Pride that young people can't participate in, like the beer garden or events held at bars. Chance also sees the focus of Pride moving to an older demographic and leaving the youth behind.

"I performed at Pride for five years in a row," he says, "then last year I got dissed in a sort of



Erotica Insanity Lace XVIII struts her stuff on the stage at Club Escape.

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