

Drag pageant brings glamour



Photos by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Eight compete in Rainbow Club's first ever drag contest

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The Clackamas Print

Editor's note: This story contains language some may find offensive.

The Rainbow Club put on the first ever Mr. and Ms. Clackamas Community College Drag Pageant in the Bill Brod Community Center yesterday with the help of professional drag bar Embers Avenue. Eight amateur "men" and "women" bravely took the stage to a packed crowd and showed Clackamas what they were made of.

"I'm very, very impressed with all the students that came out here," said the host of the show, "Kamel Toelotof," a.k.a Daniel Roa. "So many people were against it when we first started putting up posters. People were ripping them down and defacing them and we keep putting them up and up, and now there are too many."

The show was put on to bring awareness to individuals ripping down Rainbow Club posters around the campus. They hoped that the show would make the student body understand that there are many different groups that people need to be aware of.

"I'm glad [they] did this, it's a big 'fuck you' to the establish-

ment," said Alexandra Paris, one of the show's judges, about the poster being ripped down. Paris has had to deal with censoring on her cable public access show on channel 22.

Professional drag queens Chastity Frustration and Terrika St. James joined Paris as judges. They commented on the amateurs and shot jokes back and forth about everything from the contestants to drag queen life. The judges all perform at Embers Avenue bar, and also performed at the pageant to start off the show.

"It was a lot of fun. I love seeing people trying it out," said Chastity, a drag queen with 12 years of experience under her skirt, and the Saturday host of Embers Avenue.

The "ladies" competition was between five competitors, with Lady Fly taking first place prize and Floria La Fauna taking runner-up. Ray/Rae took the first place in the "men's" competition.

James Bryant-Trerise took the stage in his own show, dancing to Beethoven's Fifth. Bryant-Trerise was selected through a fundraising competition in which he won

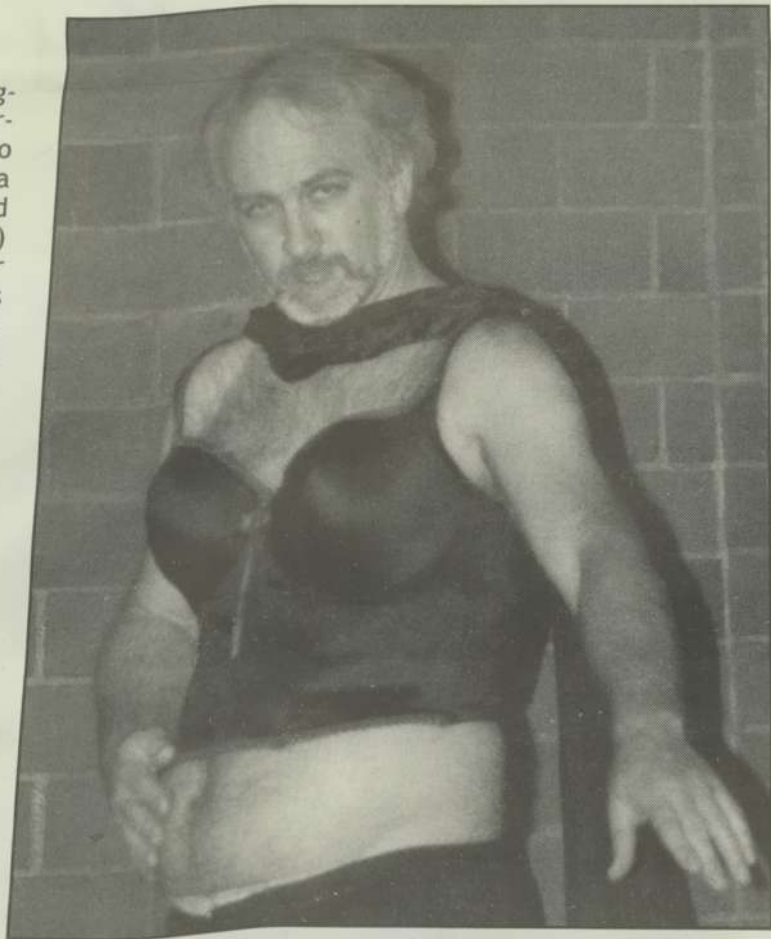
the right to be a performer during the pageant.

"For three minutes and 30 seconds I was the dancing queen," said Starlet, another student performer, when asked about her performance on stage.

First place won a trip to the Resort at Seaside. The runner-up won a gift certificate to Hobo restaurant and a prism reward. The crowd wasn't left out, because the Rainbow Club passed out key chains and buttons after the show was over.



Yesterday's drag pageant, held to bring diversity and awareness to the campus, brought a variety of high-spirited participants. (Top left) Floria La Fauna, runner up for the Ms. Clackamas title, strikes a pose on stage. (Top right) Kamel Toelotof gets down with "her" bad self. (Middle) English Instructor James Bryant-Trerise, chosen by student vote to perform, dresses for success. (Bottom) the contest's judges, (left to right) Chastity Frustration, Alexandra Paris and Terrika St. James, offer light-hearted comments following each of the performances.



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