Dra[illegible]edu[illegible] McGarvey Commons

CAROLYN ZAFFINO
Senior Reporter

"I just had surgery, 'cause honey, looking at you gave me a pussy," said Sasha, a drag queen from Pittsburgh of an excited member of the crowd.

McGarvey Commons was transformed into what looked like a dance club and was packed with people who were there to witness Behrend's fourth Annual Drag Show. Trigon, campus's gay-straight alliance club, booked six big-name drag queens to attend: Glitter Trix, Sasha Fierce, Lola, Thea Trix, Ann fu Young and Angelique.

These performers came from Pittsburgh, New Jersey and even one from Erie, stealing titles from pageants everywhere. The six drag queens took turns tearing up the floor (and the students) for almost three hours.

The audience could not help but interact with the dancers, holding money over friends' heads for lap dance, kisses, or harassment. "Sasha was my favorite, but they were all really good" stated Aundrea Luczak.

Students Desiree Fajago and Anissa Chambers both said they came out of curiosity and to support Trigon. Ann fu Young dedicated her second dance to "all those who have taken their lives due to bullying because of their orientation."

For her last dance of the night, Angelique chose six people from the crowd to be put on a chair in the middle of the dance floor for lap dances.

"It was all in good fun," said Matt Smith, who didn't initially seem happy to have been chosen, but had a huge smile on his face when he walked away.

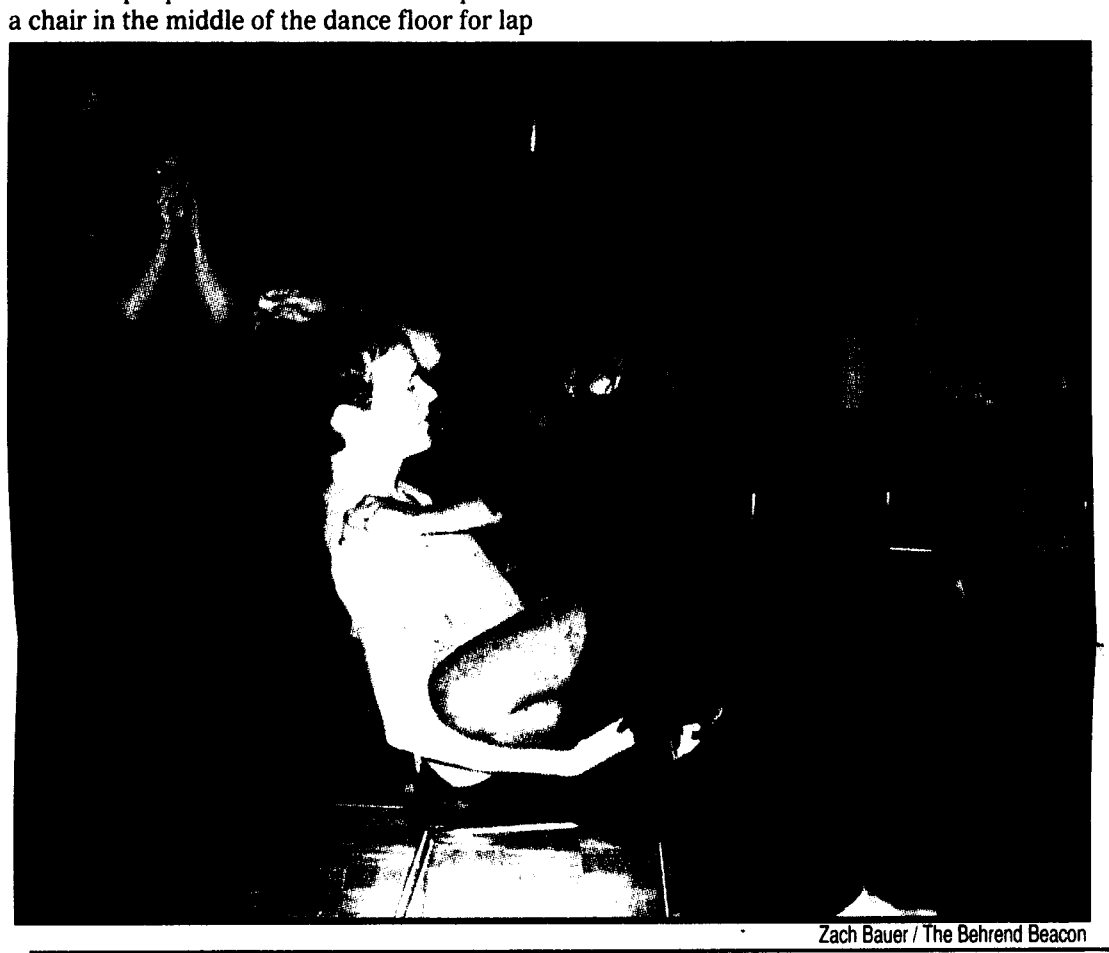
The dancers were happy to see that there were more people that dressed in drag this year, a total of nine compared to last year's three. The winner was chosen based on how loudly the crowd cheered for the contestant. The winner was very clear when Miss Ramona strutted his stuff and the room nearly exploded with applause. Ramona and Ms. Kinoshi took first place.

Ramona (student Ray Wolken) walked away with a $50 gift card to the Olive Garden. One of the other contestants, Kyle Reilly, said that he dressed in drag because "it's just fun, plus my fiancée talked me into it."

The show ended with Sasha Fierce and Ann Fu Young dancing as Beyonce and Lady Gaga. The dancers were reluctant to end the show, as the student audience was wildly energetic and encouraging.

"I have been doing this for four and a half years, and I just love coming to Behrend! I drive six hours both ways because I love seeing how much bigger it is year to year," Glitter Trix said.

"I like how involved they make the crowd get and how energetic they got us. It also opens our eyes to people that are different but the same," said student Brianna Smith.



Zach Bauer / The Behrend Beacon

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Far From France

TOBY KELLER
assistant news editor

This week, to my surprise, I had to tell the tale of how the Pilgrims national holiday was established.

Louis van der Elst, freshman robotics engineer and international student, listened eagerly. His earnest curiosity made me question my own understanding of the day. I didn't want to lead him astray. He was calling on me to be an ambassador of foreign policy, to help him deal with the subtleties of American culture, and I didn't want to let him down.

Three hours later, I found myself wondering if I had helped at all. It was certain that he wanted to learn and I had talked a considerable amount, but had I made it clear what Thanksgiving was about, and will he be prepared, I asked.

But what the hell, it isn't that hard- eat some heavy, filling food, watch football, and eventually pass out in a recliner. You don't really need the backstory; the name is [illegible] "Thanksgiving," give [illegible] you're not in class.

[illegible], van der Elst will be able to experience this American phenomenon and make his own conclusion.

"I'm going to go with an American family," said van der Elst. "I wouldn't go home even if I could. I will go home for Christmas, that's a big thing for my family. We are very traditional. I can see them then, but I want to experience this American holiday."

His submergence into US culture is not surprising for a man whose family has collectively seen most of the globe. Louis' family is spread throughout the world, with his parents in Europe and his siblings residing in China. His father worked primarily in Asia and Africa as an agricultural engineer. His mother is of Austrian heritage and has an engineering degree in urbanization. She lives with his father in Luxembourg. His sister has a degree in water resources engineering and his brother in construction engineering. While his major is similar to that of his family members, his journey has been quite different, being the first of his family to travel to the US.

"I came to the US only once before, two summers ago for a camp at Berkeley [illegible]