

# The DALLAS POST

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## Boys gone *WILD*

### MISter Pageant raises \$1,000 for kids cancer

By CAMILLE FIOTI Dallas Post Correspondent

With only five minutes to go, the frenzied beauty contestants rushed around backstage.

"There's no way I'm gonna be ready for this," Foxy Faye, aka Joe Pretko, said nervously. "You'll be alright," another contestant assured.

Pretko and 12 fellow male seniors at Dallas High School competed recently in the "MISter Beauty Pageant" in the school's packed auditorium.

The event, sponsored by the school's mini-THON club, raised over \$1,000 to benefit The Four Diamonds Fund, which raises money for childhood cancer.

The club has almost 100 student member and holds several fund-raisers throughout the year, including a dance marathon and a powder puff football game between the junior and senior girls. It has met its goal each year since it began four years ago, said chairperson Nicole Clemson. This year's goal is \$15,000 and all proceeds are donated to the Penn State Children's Hospital at the Hershey Medical Center.

Clemson, a junior at Dallas, along with fellow classmates Leigh Ann Amico, Molly Gilligan, Mariel Adams, Jill Jackson and Stacey Stepniak, organized the hilarious show, which took a year to plan. Students and their families donated the clothing and local department stores donated some of the wigs from mannequins. Joe "Angelini Joelini"



DON CAREY/ THE TIMES LEADER

The Male Beauty Queen Pageant at Dallas High School raised funds for Mini-Thon.

Collini said he and the other contestants practiced for a week how to walk, talk and dance like girls. The guys chose their own "female" names and opted to wear sneakers or flip-flops instead of high heels to make the transition a little easier. Collini was proud to be part of the event.

"It's for a good cause," he said. "It's actually a lot of fun, working with everyone."

Ryan "Deanna" Duddy sported a black and white striped mini skirt and a turquoise tank with "Wild" emblazoned across his chest and, after having some trouble fastening his AA-cup bra, succumbed to the assistance of two of the pageant's organizers.

The contest featured a swimsuit and evening gown competition and a group dance

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DON CAREY PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

BELOW: Ryan Duddy struts his stuff during the Male Beauty Pageant at Dallas High School.



"I am just happy that I was in it. I knew the money was going to a good place."

KEVIN "ANGEL" ARNAUD "MISter Beauty Queen 2007." PICTURED ABOVE



## A family affair: the beat goes on

Warrington Family Band plays English, American, and Celtic music.

By REBECCA BRIA rbria@timesleader.com

Ian Warrington threatened to quit playing the violin when he was 13 years old. When family friends Margaret Bakker and Rob Lewis heard that, they offered the young man a job playing in their country dance group, the Back Mountain Reelers.

Ian's family went to see him perform at dances and before long, they were all playing instruments and the Warrington Family Band was formed.

The band will play at a New England Contra Dance at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5 at the Church of Christ Uniting in Kingston. A New England Contra Dance is an American folk dance that descended from English, French and Scottish dances.

The local dance is sponsored by the Northeast Pennsylvania Folklore Society and the Chicory House, a non-profit coffee house. Dances are held on the first Saturday of each month from September through June.

The Warrington Family Band, which offers English, Celtic and American country dance music, is comprised of parents, Peter and Jean; sons Ian, 27; Ben, 24; and daughter Lucy, 20. Ian and Lucy play the fiddle, Ben plays the banjo and the piano, Jean plays the guitar and Peter plays bass.

"It's so cool," Jean said of contra dancing. "You just forget all your worries and you dance with people. You can't resist. The beauty of it, I think, is how people dance with each other - they hold hands. It's a wonderful community thing to do. And you don't have to be an experienced dancer."

The Warringtons lived in the Wyoming Valley for 16 years before moving to Philadelphia in 2002. Peter was an obstetrician at Nesbitt Memorial Hospital and Jean worked for 10 years as director of the Wyoming Valley Montessori School. Peter has since left obstetrics and now practices geriatric

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## L-L students taste diversity

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK Dallas Post Correspondent

Food, glorious food, was the order of the day at the Lake-Lehman Senior High School Annual International Dinner.

The foods were all homemade (some even hand-made) and represented the culinary traditions from nine countries that the student groups chose. The event is the culmination of three months' work for the 62 10th-grade students and fulfills their requirements in an honors humanities class at the high school.

Brian Gorski, chairperson of the history department, is delighted at the turnout and the work the students have accomplished.

"The kids were under the gun this year because of the strike to do the research, cooking and present their skits," he said.

But it all came together brightly. The students rented costumes, the meals were cooked, each country had its own recipe book compiled by students and the skits performed after dinner even included language segments.

Looking around the overcrowded

school cafeteria, Gorski wondered out loud, "As you can see, it has expanded. We expect to serve 750 to 1,000 people. The school may have to consider a bigger location next year."

The event started about 25 years ago in the kitchen of Jean Lipski (a Social Studies teacher at the time) as a madrigal dinner, thought Sandy Wayman, a language teacher involved with the dinner. It has since been included in the curriculum of the history and humanities department.

The food is all fresh and made from

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Sixty-two 10th-graders prepared homemade ethnic food for hundreds at the Annual International Dinner.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Manning the Egyptian booth at the Lake-Lehman International Dinner are, from left, Ranya Grzybowski, Alyssa Cornell, Seanna Schweitzer, Nicole Melnick and Brie Harris.