

Pride with no Prejudice

EKU Pride Alliance sponsored night of music and drag

On December 3rd, a chilly and snowy Friday night, one could find all the warmth, love and fun they wanted at the EKU Pride Alliance's most recent event. Titled "One Night of Music, Drag, Free Food, Prizes & Friends," students from all over Richmond and beyond met in the Gifford Theatre on Eastern's campus to enjoy an evening of socializing, live bands, and of course, a drag show. The bands included Lexington based Spooky Q's and Fair Heron, both of whom were big hits, and the drag show was put on by The Imperial Court of Kentucky. Senior Farah Ardeshir, a member of the planning committee, was particularly excited for their performance. "The Imperial Court came to our 'Out and Proud' event a while back, so it's awesome that they're on Eastern's campus again. They're so tall, and beautiful of course!" When asked about why they chose to throw the event, Harper explained: "My understanding is that we wanted to do an event to combine activism with our social organization. Drag shows in particular are a typical event of Pride groups, LGBTQ, etc., so we're glad to bring it here." President of the EKU Pride Alliance and current Senior Adrienne Harper agreed. "I feel that it is really important for Pride to hold these events because this LGBTQ community is on campus and deserves to have an equal and understood position among all the other RSOs and students. Unfortunately, all around the country and the world, there isn't tolerance for LGBTQ, and because of that members of our community face discrimination and hate. When we have an event like the Drag Show or any other event that we have held, it shows that we are just like everyone else: We have a diverse background, with varying interests, we like to have fun, we have friends and family that we love, and we want to be accepted." The event was beneficial to other organizations as well. "This Drag show also serves as a fundraising event for the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center. BRCC provides outstanding support, advocacy, and resources for many individuals in Kentucky who have experienced violence or sexual assault, and we hope that we can continue to do other fundraisers for them in the future." Harper stated. Though the event certainly had a deeper purpose and meaning, to many it was also a night to relax and, most importantly, have fun. EKU Junior Alicia Bingham certainly shared this sentiment. "It helps gets the Pride name out there, and gives students a chance to just to have some fun! You know, everybody's stressed, everybody's getting ready for finals, so it is nice to just step back and have a good time." Not everybody was necessarily from Eastern either. Bingham's girlfriend Jen Dennis, a student from Berea College, was one who came from out of town for the event. "More like she dragged me. My girlfriend dragged me to drag!" laughed Dennis. On a more serious note, Dennis noted, "I actually go to a lot of Lexington Pride events, Berea has some drag shows too, so I like to help get awareness out there." Junior Miles Owen was here primarily for the social aspect. "I just come to hang with friends. This is my first drag show I've been to, but I've always been comfortable around people who are comfortable around themselves, you know? Good people are good people, it doesn't matter what they wear or what they do, they're still people." Many like Owen were attending their first drag show that night. "I've never been to a drag show before. This is my first one! I did go to the opening of SAFE, but that's the only event I've really been able to attend," said Senior Amanda Banks. "I really like supporting these LGBT

events. Though this is also my first time seeing a drag show, I did look up the bands playing tonight online through some of their links!” exclaimed Senior Ashley Banks. Others at the event were more familiar with what these shows had to offer. Junior Kelly Lewis and Graduate student Chad Centers had enjoyed the show many times before. Lewis stated, “We come to it every year!” “For equality and fun times!” Centers added. Others still were directly involved with orchestrating the entire evening. Sophomore and treasurer of the Pride Alliance Scott Wells explained what he felt the event was all about. “We do this every semester, and it’s just something we can do on campus that’s a lot of fun while also getting people to talk about us and start getting involved. It’s a great showcase for everything we have to offer.” Sophomore and Pride Alliance officer Jaden Kilmon summed the event up quite well. “I feel like this event allows students to have a night of fun, but also is unique in that for once it’s not people concentrating on what makes us different from one another, but rather what brings us together.”