



Rachael Fisher - Staff Photographer

This duo was joined by one other person for their performance of a rockabilly song at the event last Friday.

# Kings and Queens

Last Friday at Drag Ball, the amateur perform

## Drag Ball returns with new p

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Dressed in drag and ready to party, members of the student organization Alliance hosted their second annual Drag Ball last Friday.

"I feel like the purpose for the Drag Ball is fun," said **Cristina Tionson, one of the emcees at the event.** "Without a doubt, there's this amazing, safe and dynamic space where people can perform, be imaginative, work in and around the context of gender and share in diverse performances based in pop culture or in the exploration of that 'deep, dark secret.'"

**Caroline Wilson, one of the chairs of Alliance,** said the group decided to host another Drag Ball this year because the event was so much fun last year.

Wilson also said this year's event was more successful than last year's.

"It was (more successful) in the sense that, at least from my perspective, there was a lot more interaction between participants and performers, and a lot of the people in the audience came from a broader spectrum," Wilson said. "For me, that's successful because that generates conversations and it builds community, and it's

just more fun when you're not just having an event for the group. It was really just everybody who wanted to be involved.

**Brennen Bear, one of the performers at the Drag Ball and an active member in Alliance,** said Alliance's purpose is acceptance and raising awareness.

"I think the main purpose (of Alliance) is to create a safe environment here campus through raising awareness on LBGTQQIAA issues," Bear said.

LBGTQQIAA is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and transsexual, queer, questioning, intersexual, asexual and allies, according to Wilson. She said there are other variations of the acronym, but they are all acceptable.

Wilson said the money donated at the event went to the local group Youth Out Right.

"(It's) a group in town that serves LBGTQ youth from about age 13 or 14 all the way up to 24 throughout Western North Carolina. A lot of those youth are people who don't have access to a (gay-straight alliance) type program or organization wherever they are," Wilson said.

However, Wilson said she thought the point of the event was not just to raise money for the group



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Some of the performances at drag ball were slightly risqué. Some of the performers stripped down to their intimates for their routines.