



Students Michael Jozefowicz, left, and Caroline Wilson performed at the Drag Ball Friday, sponsored by the UNCA organization Alliance.

Kimala Burklow- Contributing Photographer

Alliance-sponsored Drag Ball promotes LGBTQ awareness

By Alex Hammond

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The party favors at some balls are noise makers and candy. At the Alliance-sponsored Drag Ball, the favors included condoms, lubricant and dental dams. Less than halfway through Friday night's drag performances, the large crowd made sure the favors were gone.

"The meetings have so many more people coming as the year has gone on. We've done very little publicity for the group itself other than at these events, but that has been enough to really help the group," said Michael Jozefowicz, who went by Celine Friday night.

Jozefowicz won the first Drag Idol contest at UNC Asheville with a performance of Tina Turner's "River Deep, Mountain High." The performance earned a standing ovation, just like at Drag Idol in February, but this time it was more comfortable, Jozefowicz said.

"For this, I was dancing with everyone and having fun with everyone. Then I performed for them, and it was so much easier," Jozefowicz said.

Alliance, a UNCA organization dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender issues, hosted both Drag Idol in February and the Drag Ball last Friday.

Auburn Petty, one of the Alliance members in charge of group publicity, said these two events will result in more knowledge and participation next school year.

"I feel like next year, the people that didn't come this year will hear about it and want to come because it's part of Homecoming weekend now," Petty said.

According to Kelly Doyle, the chair of Alliance, Petty and Jozefowicz developed a new logo. They are also working on other ways to spread the word about gender and sexuality issues on campus.

"Once the show was over a lot of people cleared out, but the most important thing with Drag Ball was getting people to see a drag performance," Petty said.

That openness is resulting in a swelling of group numbers, Jozefowicz said.

"We started off with about 15 to 20, and now I think it's up to 30 or 35," Jozefowicz said.

For now, the leadership in Alliance is young and ambitious. The Drag Idol idea, Doyle said, is unique as far as the group can tell, but will not be alone for long.

"A friend of a friend of mine saw the pictures online and now she wants to organize a drag ball in Columbia," said

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N.C. folklore society celebrates WNC heritage on campus

By Brian Ponder

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The North Carolina Folklore Society, one of the oldest in the nation, hosted their annual meeting and award ceremony to celebrate a specific N.C. region at UNC Asheville last Saturday.

"One of the reasons that we wanted to come here is because Asheville values its folk heritage so highly," said Philip Coyle, editor of the North Carolina Folklore Journal and a board member of the NCFS. "We wanted to take this statewide organization and come to what's really a leader in the promotion of folklore."

Sustaining Traditions: A Celebration of Western North Carolina Folklife in the 21st Century was the theme of this year's meeting.

The NCFS was founded in 1913 to promote the appreciation and the study of folk life in North Carolina. The society collects songs, stories, customs and superstitions to help preserve N.C.'s

diverse culture all the way from the coast, throughout the Piedmont and to the mountains.

"The NCFS is one of the oldest folklore societies that exists in America. Our mission is to celebrate and help preserve the traditions of North Carolina. It's everything from music to food to other parts of the arts that we celebrate through our annual meetings and give out awards," said Lora Smith, the membership and program coordinator for the NCFS.

The society's annual meeting moves each year to a different part of the state, and each year the meeting is designed to celebrate the traditions of that particular area.

"We try to do it too, so the annual meeting reflects that region. This year we are very much focused on Western North Carolina folk life," Smith said.

The award ceremony awarded several artists and folklorists from the Western North Carolina area. Individuals and organizations received awards for their involvement in promoting art and cultural traditions.

"We give out two awards each year. We give out Brown-Hudson awards, which are to individuals, and we give out a community traditions award, which is for a community or a group or an organization," Smith said. "This year we are honoring Eric Ellis, who is a bluegrass musician and teacher, Anna Fariello, who has done a lot with preserving Cherokee basket weaving traditions, Jerry Wolfe, who is a Cherokee storyteller, and also Alice Gerrard, who is a folk musician. Our community traditions awards are going to the Folk Heritage Committee, which produce the Shindig on the Green, the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, Helen C. Vance & North Shore Historical Association and the Etowah Christian Harmony Singers."

The folklore society gives out the Brown-Hudson Folklore Awards to people who have contributed to the appreciation, continuation or study of N.C. folk traditions.

This year, a bluegrass musician and instructor, a Cherokee basket weaver, a Cherokee heritage storyteller and a



Shawn Hiatt- Staff Photographer

Cloggers performed at the N.C. Folklore Society's annual meeting hosted at UNCA Saturday.

folk musician won awards for the preservation of various aspects of mountain culture.

Wolfe was one of those honored with the Brown-Hudson Award for his preservation of the Cherokee culture through storytelling. His stories tell of his life growing up and playing stick ball.

"Jerry Wolf is a Cherokee storyteller

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