



Pictured from L to R are Vanessa Todd, 2nd Runner-up; E'mon Fakar, Miss Buncombe County-FFI 1991; Tracy Morgan, 1st Runner-up; Junelle Chere, Miss Buncombe County-FFI 1990; and Kymber Raines, Miss North Carolina-FFI.

E'mon Fakar Is the New Miss Buncombe County-FFI

by Ron Huskins

The Miss Buncombe County-FFI (For Female Impersonators) Pageant was held March 31 at Scandal's Nightclub in Asheville. The title was sought by five contestants from four North Carolina cities. When the final curtain came down, the crown belonged to the former Miss Fayetteville, E'mon Fakar, from Lexington.

First Runner-up went to the currently reigning Miss East Coast-America, Tracy Morgan, from Charlotte. Asheville's Vanessa Todd was Second Runner-up.

Entertainers for the event were the currently reigning Miss North Carolina-FFI, Kymber Raines; and the currently reigning Miss Asheville-FFI, Jackie

Steele. Also entertaining and giving up her crown was Miss Buncombe County-FFI, Junelle Chere.

Winners in the five categories were as follows: On Stage Response, Vanessa Todd; Male Interview, E'mon Fakar; Sportswear, Tracy Morgan; Evening Gown, Tracy Morgan; and Talent, E'mon Fakar.

Winners of the Miss Buncombe County-FFI are automatically eligible to compete in the Miss North Carolina-FFI Pageant held each July in Durham at the Power Company Nightclub. Winners there go on to the Miss America-FFI Pageant in Dallas, Texas.

Congratulations to all the winners, and good luck to E'mon Fakar in her bid to become the next Miss North Carolina-FFI. ▼

Holistic Conference to Focus on Hope: Surviving AIDS

One of the little known facts about AIDS is that the majority of people infected with HIV are healthy and free of symptoms even after eight years. It is now medically known that an individual's lifestyle, diet, mental attitude, and stress level greatly impact on the progression of the HIV disease to AIDS or to ARC.

On May 30, June 1 and 2, 1991, a conference in Highlands, NC, will focus on what each person can do to optimize his or her health--and survive HIV disease until a definitive cure is found. The conference, entitled "Until There's A Cure: Surviving HIV Disease," will convey a message of hope and provide practical workshops on immune system strengthening, diets, meditation, intimacy and sexuality, substance abuse, exercise and personal empowerment. Complementary approaches to traditional health care, such as massage and acupuncture, will also be explored, and a special workshop on bodywork is planned.

The conference is a program of The Shambhala Institute and Foundation based in Asheville, NC. The Shambhala Institute is a tax-exempt, non-profit health

and educational organization which specializes in holistic oriented conferences, mind-body healing and personal empowerment, and has a highly dedicated all-volunteer staff. Steven M. Greer, M.D., is director of the Shambhala Institute and, along with Lynne C. DeLuca, M.A., will be facilitating the conference. Dr. Greer has lectured and conducted workshops all over the world and is one of the organizers of the highly successful "Gay Spirit Visions" retreat, also held at "The Mountain" in Highlands this past fall. The Shambhala Institute is dedicated to affirming the role of the individual in the healing process, and maintains a philosophy which emphasizes cooperation between traditional and progressive health care approaches. Shambhala Institute believes that a comprehensive treatment of HIV disease utilizing both traditional medical and proven progressive holistic approaches will enable individuals to survive HIV disease until a cure is found.

For more information about the conference, contact the Shambhala Institute at 118 Cumberland Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801, or call 704-253-0509.

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