

Win over WashU caps dream season No. 3 see Sports



CWRU athletics' accomplishments praiseworthy see page 12

CWRU teams with Rock Hall for Janis Joplin tribute see page 6

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Spectrum's sixth annual Drag Ball takes place Saturday



Ben Chodroff/Observer

This year's Drag Ball will take place tomorrow at 8 p.m. in Carlton Commons. Admission is \$5 per person, and will benefit the Trevor Hotline.

LAUREN HENNEN
Assistant News Editor

This Saturday, Spectrum will host its sixth annual Drag Ball at Carlton Commons. The event, which starts at 8:00, will feature performances by a number of Case students, with awards given for the best performances.

Participating contestants will take the stage on Saturday night, dancing, modeling, and lip-synching for the crowd. Audience members have the opportunity to donate money during their favorite acts, and audience picks in the categories of best modeling, drag queen singing performance, and drag king singing performance will be determined by which acts garner the most donations. Winners of the audience pick will be awarded prizes, along with those contestants chosen as winners for each category by the judges.

Unlike in years past, Spectrum will be charging five dollars at the door for admission to the event. This money will be pooled with audience member donations and given to charity. Luke Nantz, a second-year student and co-president of Spectrum along with senior Chris Jennewein, said that the choice to charge for admission was made to emphasize the philanthropic nature of the event.

"One of the central ideas we had in planning this event was to really reestablish the charity

aspect of it. We want this to be a pay it forward situation," said Nantz. "In addition to creating positive change on campus, we want to also create positive change off-campus."

Though Drag Ball has always been a charity fundraiser, Spectrum hopes to increase its giving this year through the increased revenue from admission sales. Half of the money raised through Drag Ball will be given to the chosen charity of the group that brings the largest number of contestants and audience members to the event. The other half of the money will be given to Trevor Helpline, a crisis and suicide prevention phone-line for members of the LGBT community.

"We really want to reach out to people who may not be comfortable in drag," said Nantz. "There may be people on campus who want to show their support, but not necessarily as contestants, and we want to include them too."

Drag Ball is co-sponsored by the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women, the Share the Vision Committee, the Office of Housing, Residence Life and Greek Life, Residence Hall Association, Interfraternity Congress, and Panhellenic Council.

In addition to the support that these organizations have given Drag Ball, Nantz said that campus fraternities and sororities have been a big part of Drag

Ball's success in years past.

"A central element of the event is really the Greek involvement. The fraternities and sororities send a lot of contestants and supporters, which makes it really fun," said Nantz. "We get a lot of people saying, 'Wow, it's really cool that these fraternity guys feel comfortable dressing up in drag.'"

Since its inception at Case, Spectrum's Drag Ball has routinely attracted crowds of 400 to 600 people. As Spectrum's largest event, Nantz says that they hope Drag Ball helps to raise awareness of and support for the LGBT community on campus. While Nantz says that he believes Case is fairly progressive with in terms of its acceptance and support of its LGBT community on campus, he and other members of Spectrum hope that events like Drag Ball can help to eliminate some of the prejudiced ideas and speech that still exist on campus.

"There's definitely a hush-hush mentality with respect to politically incorrect statements on campus," he said. "People are very aware that they should be saying politically correct things, but behind closed doors, there are pockets of people who let their guard down and when they do, they have really hurtful things to say."

see DRAG BALL
page 6

USG creates transparency committee to improve communication

GILLIAN SEAMAN
Staff Reporter

Breakdowns in notifications and miscommunications between administration and the student body are nothing new. Every day, students across campus regularly delete unread Case Dailies and Undergraduate Student Government newsletters, inadvertently ignoring vital information. But Duwain Pinder, president of Case Western Reserve University's USG, is seeking to improve the way such important information is disseminated amongst the student body.

With the goal of facilitating communication about events that will affect the student body, the new transparency ad-hoc committee was developed as an extension of the USG public relations committee. Despite the connotations with its name, the committee will not be focused on financial transparency. Chaired by USG representative Jared Hamilton, the committee is also charged with working with CWRU administration to deter-

mine what information students should know.

"I hope to open a dialogue with administrators to help them understand students' needs. There is a lot of potential for this committee," said Hamilton.

The transparency committee, however, is notably different from the USG PR committee as the latter focuses on informing the undergraduate population about what USG is doing, while the transparency committee is designed to focus on distributing all necessary information about what actions the university administration is taking to the student body.

"The hope is that through the activities of this committee, the undergraduate students will feel more informed [about] the university and more aware on how decisions affect them," said Pinder.

According to vice president of public relations Jacklynn Sanford, the committee will begin

see USG
page 4

CWRU's Eco-Party

see page 5



Denton Zhou/Observer

Student Sustainability Council featured a boat made of recycled plastic products at last Saturday's Eco-Party.

Established in 1968