

No Bunny Business!

Just Easter Cookies from



120 No. 14th

Easter Worship

10:00 a.m. at

Pershing Auditorium

Experience the joyful celebration of our choirs, instrumental groups and handbells.

8:30 a.m. Fellowship and Refreshments

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Easter at Pershing Aud., 15th & M 488-8885



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Thursday, April 12, 1990

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Mercedes lip syncs to a Carmen Miranda song during Sunday's show.

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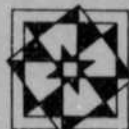
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Fe/male

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because I have no lips," B.B.Q. said.

Lafayette said there are many everyday things most female impersonators must do if they want to perform. For instance, most performers must shave their legs. Lafayette does not -- he solves the hairy leg problem by wearing nylon stockings over tights. However, he does have to shave his chest and underarms fairly regularly.

"There are outfits that I wear that are revealing, risque to a certain extent," he said.

Female impersonation also is a little uncomfortable, Lafayette said. If an impersonator chooses to wear falsies, they must be super-glued to his chest to keep them from moving around or falling off. Also, many outfits bought from the store are designed to fit women's bodies, not men's, and they can be a little restrictive.

"It's uncomfortable to a degree," Lafayette said. "You're putting your men's feet in women's shoes. Some people say it's not uncomfortable, but I know they're lying."

And then, of course, there is the monetary price of female impersonation. Performers can spend a great deal of money on clothes and makeup and accessories for their routines. Female impersonators take a great deal of pride in their appearances because it is a very expensive hobby. And for many, it's their livelihood.

"Oh God, the sky's the limit," Lafayette said about how much an impersonator can spend on an outfit he may wear only once for one show. "I've known people who have spent \$10,000 on a gown, seriously."

That is why it's important to win pageants, because if you have a title, you can go to other cities and

ask a certain price to perform. Known title holders often draw crowds.

"Basically, when you get your name established, you get invited to other cities to do shows," Mercedes said.

Fun

Probably the best-known female impersonator who started in Lincoln is Amanda Foxx. He is Miss Gay California/America. He performed at the Boardwalk on April 1, and appeared on the April 4 episode of Night Court, impersonating Cher.

"As a boy, he's very plain, but he really impersonates well," Crowl said. "You have to know it's J... otherwise, you'd think it was a woman."

Mercedes, Champagne, Lafayette and B.B.Q. all said they enjoy becoming somebody else for a while. It's a thrill, and they love it.

"It's a total transformation into someone else," B.B.Q. said, "It's neat to see yourself as somebody else."

For many, it really is a total transformation. For instance, one night several years ago after having some promotional photos taken, Lafayette decided he wanted to go out and have a drink. In drag. So he went to the Night Before, since it was the closest bar. Some men at the bar sent him drinks and started hitting on him. Lafayette told them he was a female impersonator, but they didn't believe him. They thought he was just trying to avoid their advances. He was so convincing that evening, that a year later he did a three night impersonation show at the Night Before -- a bar that ordinarily features topless dancing.

"It's amazing how much you can change yourself," Lafayette said. "It's scary; it's wild."

However, Mercedes, Cham-