

Dressing up . . .



Clockwise from top: One of Michael's first steps in dressing for the club kid image is applying lipstick with a lip brush. Zach, right, practices his club kid look as Michael brushes on blush. "The club kid is the ultimate Narcissist. No one is more beautiful than him or herself," Zach said. It takes club kids six hours of treacherous preparation for about two hours of public glamour. Zach, right, peers over his sunglasses to check his outfit, while Chad, middle, and Michael change their outfits. Chad makes a final check before showing off in public. A major portion of the club kid image is dressing like women with the help of "falsies" or fake breasts. Michael fluffs his platinum wig.

Photos by Al Schaben



Fashion

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could help it. "If we have outfits on, we go straight to the bar," he said. "We don't go to Perkins or we don't go to other places, like if I look weirder than Zach, he'll buy my cigarettes at 7-11."

On nights when they go other places, the three will change their clothes in Chad's car.

Many gay people don't like that he, Zach and Michael dressed up, Chad said. They would prefer that the homosexual community be less noticeable.

Chad said he didn't want to force his idea of fashion on anyone.

"I just think that as far as the gay community goes, they need a little awakening," he said.

Zach said the public's reaction to his and his friends' clothes depended on where they were. For instance, he said, if he dressed up on campus, which was not often, he received "stereotypical reactions (such as) 'faggot.'"

"But then if I'm in a club some-

where, and I'm with my friends, or if I'm dressed up and . . . in a nicer section of town or an artsier section, say if I'm in the Haymarket, there aren't any negative reactions," Zach said. "They might just stare or say, 'You look great.'"

Chad said that once he and his friends were dressed outrageously to go to a Deelite concert. They stopped at an Omaha grocery store where they stood out from other clients.

"There were no comments just because I think they were so scared of us," Chad said. "They really did not know what to think."

Because many people, especially Midwesterners, have such a hard time accepting anything or anyone who isn't "normal," Michael, Chad and Zach said they would continue dressing the way they did.

"People have different lives and different ideas about what people are supposed to be like," Zach said. "That's why I think it's great that people like us have come about in the last five years."

"Hopefully, in 30 years, it'll be the norm to expect anything and to not disrespect anybody for the way they look."



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We're gay, and it's hard enough to come out in this society as a gay person, so we came out as being gay, and then we went past that fact . . . to become more than gay, to become objects.

Zach
club kid imitator

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