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# Big money main perk for drag

By Laura Ray  
*Diversions Contributor*

Jeff is a man who maintains two jobs and once had a hobby most men probably wouldn't consider. Jeff was a drag queen. His stage name was Peaches La Rue, and he was very popular in Midwestern towns and surrounding big cities.



Courtesy of Peaches LaRue

Jeff as "Peaches."

“It took him about 2 1/2 hours to get completely done up. The makeup and the wig took up most of his time. He shaved his face, armpits and chest for the Peaches role. But he refused to shave his legs.”

But for now, Jeff has decided to take a break from female impersonating. He has retired, "at least for awhile," he said.

"It was like a job. It wasn't fun anymore." When he was a major leader in the drag queen circuit, Jeff had a costume wardrobe that ran into the thousands of dollars — not to mention all the makeup and wigs. But it paid off. Female impersonators

make big bucks.

When Peaches played the bigger cities either by himself or with a show, he could earn about \$700 for four or five hours of work.

A show's producers would pay all expenses, minus food and pantyhose. But Jeff didn't want to lose himself in the Peaches role.

"I'd been in the business for 13 years. . . . We used to do it once, maybe twice a month. Now it's built up to be such a big thing . . ." he said.

"The audience expects you to put everything into a show, every time you do it. It's so draining."

Jeff never limited what Peaches could do. His routines varied from Whoopi Goldberg characters with

stand-up routines to choreographed lip-sync numbers.

It took him about 2 1/2 hours to get completely done up. The makeup and the wig took up most of his time. He shaved his face, armpits and chest for the Peaches role. But he refused to shave his legs.

"I did shave my legs once, but it felt . . . it itched so bad!" he said with a laugh.

Jeff said he would wear four pairs of pantyhose before he'd shave his legs.

Jeff wanted to make it clear that drag shows were entertainment, not a sexual thing.

"Pantyhose do not turn me on," he said. "I think they're uncomfortable as hell."

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## Covert

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those in the group, and he plans to continue indefinitely in the future. "After every raid, we come back and try to learn from it," he said. "I

now make notes after raids to study them." The notes may also develop into a book about raiding, he added.

He has never been injured while raiding, but one time a companion fell off the side of a building they were climbing when his hands went numb in the cold weather.

Winter raiding is the hardest for a number of reasons: slippery ice, crunchy snow, tracks and sound traveling farther in the cold.

When going on a raid, Don says he thinks it is better to pack lightly than to become encumbered with unnecessary equipment. A Swiss Army knife, a flashlight, matches and material for creating diversions or evading other persons are all that are typically carried, although particular missions may require special equipment.

After a raid, Don slips back into

his normal life but remains wary.

"People look at you like you are psychotic when you talk about this kind of thing," he says.

The two lives — normal and secret — seem to be well intermixed. Raiding skills can be used in real life, and everyday concerns inform actions while raiding, so neither realm can be wholly divorced from the other.

Don realizes certain aspects of his raiding activities may not be considered typical by most people, but he sees the activity as an essential part of his everyday life, a part which offers excitement and challenge like nothing else can.

Bryan Peterson is a senior English, psychology and philosophy major and Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment reporter.



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