

'PUT ON A SHOW FOR THEM'

Gordon Langer, Mr. Mardi Gras 1983, says he entered the contest "just for a hoot" and has had a lot of fun in the past year.

Langer was nominated by several women in 1983 as a contestant.

"Initially I said 'no' but then thought it might be fun and it was. It was something out of the ordinary, something I'd probably never do."

He says he has always been outgoing so he wasn't that nervous onstage during the contest. However, even the most steely nerves can get a little jumpy when the audience is screaming and yelling.

"Five hundred women would make anybody nervous!" Langer says.

He was surprised when he was picked as Mr. Mardi Gras, but he did put on a special show when he was on the runway. (Photo, page 14.)

"All the other guys were more conservative. I went out there with the idea to try to put on a show for the ladies. The rest took it seriously, like it was a real fashion show. It's not meant to be serious."

The men modelled casual wear, a formal suit, an outfit of their own choice, and finally a bathing suit — the high point of the show.

"A lot of guys wore rugby shorts and shirts, but the women wanted to see skin," Langer says laughing.

In the past year Langer, as a Prince George celebrity, has attended such events as the Queen Aurora contest, a celebrity fashion show, and the Oktoberfest.

"I've met a lot of people through this — and made a lot of new girlfriends," Langer says.

Mr. Mardi Gras 1983 has some advice for this year's contestants.

"Don't take it seriously. Just go out there with a carefree attitude and you'll do all right and have a lot of fun," he says. "Don't worry about being the perfect 10 because I didn't think I was."

"Do the best to put on a show for them, because that's why they're there."

Langer also has some advice for his successor.

"Go to as many Mardi Gras functions as possible. Get involved in the Mardi Gras week. It's a lot of fun, you make new friends and have a good time."

Langer has one final comment after a year as Mr. Mardi Gras.

"I haven't got married, I'm still an available bachelor."



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