

Students shine at glittering pageant

West Coast College students put their best feet and dresses on display as they shone during a glittering ceremony to decide the queen and king of 2011.

Citrusdal Level 2 Automotive Student Charlene Strauss was the toast of the evening when she was crowned Ms West Coast College 2011.

Her 1st Princess Leandre Meiring is a Level 3 Education and Development student from Vredendal and 2nd princess Beatrix Antonie is a Level 2 Office Administration student from Malmesbury.

In the boys category, Abulele Nyangana, Management Level 3 student from Vredenburg was crowned Mr West Coast College. His 1st prince was Enem Titus, Level 4 Office Administration student from Malmesbury and 2nd prince was Neville Scheefer, a Level 2 Fitting and Turning student from Vredendal.

Juandre Julies from Malmesbury and Henriette Mare from Vredendal were awarded with the Mr & Miss Personality titles respectively.

The finals of this inter-campus event attended by about 200 members of staff, students and the community is the culmination of five campus based events in which each had to determine their entrants.

In her opening address Deputy CEO for Innovation and Development Mrs Rhazia Hamza said the pageant was important for West Coast College because too often girls drop out because they are not valued at home; many girls are sexually molested and abused.

“Some are emotionally abused in society and at home; and they are made to understand they are inferior to men.”

“Therefore for us pageants are part of promoting self-esteem. Girls who compete feel a sense of belonging with the other contestants, and the larger community.

“Contestants gain the ability to speak in public, and a sense of confidence in themselves. Winners of pageants have often said they feel a sense of accomplishment,” said Mrs Hamza.

She said women are becoming more and more educated; and they take up leadership roles in prominent positions in society and we need to encourage this through social events like these.

“The winners of the pageants often



WEST COAST COLLEGE BEAUTY PAGEANT 2011

TOP: At the back from left are Johan Petersen, Nomathemba Nkila-Dapula, Gaynor Erasmus and MacNeil Hendricks. In front is Leandre Meiring (1st Princess), Charlene Strauss (Queen) and Beatrix Antonie (2nd Princess).

LEFT: The boys winners from left are Enem Titus (1st Prince), King Abulele Nyangana and Neville Scheefer (2nd Prince).

become role models for little girls and teens. The key role in being a queen was to understand and support topical issues. The winners especially were the women whom the girls looked up to the most. They needed to be someone whom girls could connect with and aspire to be.”

Mrs Hamza said beauty pageants have a long, controversial and colourful history. “Choosing symbolic kings and queens is an ancient custom in Europe in which beautiful young women symbolized their nations' virtues and other abstract ideas.” The judges for the evening were Mr

Mcneil Hendricks (ex Springbok rugby player and movie star), Gaynor Erasmus (owner of a Salsa dance school), Mrs Nomathemba Nkila-Dapula (Senior Manager Academic, West Coast College) and Mr Johan Petersen (Matuba wines). Entertainment was provided by Rashaad Adams and LeLue.

* The college management congratulates all participants and winners, you have made the West Coast College proud.



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