

Gay Republicans want inquiry on UMSL drag show

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The Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis have asked for an investigation of a drag show at the University of Missouri at St. Louis last month.

Charles Stadlander, president of the political organization for gay, lesbian and bisexual Republicans, attended the Oct. 14 drag show. The second annual show was sponsored by several groups, including PRIZM, an organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students.

Stadlander said performers in the show mocked heterosexual people in the audience, wore revealing outfits, used inappropriate language and simulated sex acts.

He said university officials should not have signed off on the event, and he complained that taxpayer dollars were involved.

Stadlander's complaint was the only one received about the event, said Bob Samples, a spokesman for the university. Taxpayer money was not used to pay for the event, and proper procedures were followed, he said.

"In essence, it's a First Amendment issue," he said. "On a university campus, you have hundreds of events each year, and not everyone is going to find every one appropriate."