

Sisters' dance 'wows' judges

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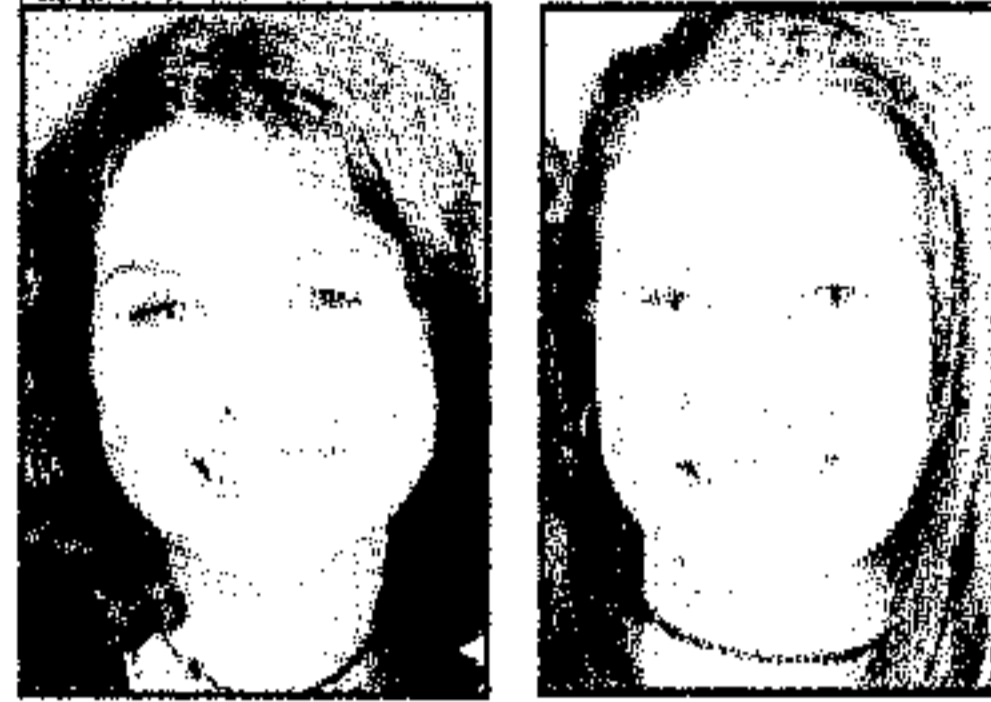
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FREDERICK — In his first TV performance ever, Tim belted out a Chicago tune in his effort to impress a four-person panel of judges.

Kelly, decked out in fuchsia and complete with her own choreographed moves, sang "Fever."

It looked like an adaptation of American Idol.

Instead it was part of "60 Seconds of Fame," a competition that had Frederick Community College students sing, dance and recite poetry on Tuesday in an attempt to



A. Palmer

C. Palmer

get their mugs on TV and win a shot at \$100.

The FCC event gave Trenton Hightower's public relations class a chance to put on a televised talent competition in just a few weeks. Performers got to hear judges critique their work and strut their

stuff with cameras rolling.

The Palmer sisters, who performed a traditional Irish song and dance, beat out nine other teams with just one minute to wow the judges and win the \$100 grand prize.

"The judges were just like, 'Wow,'" Christa Palmer, 19, told her mother after she and her sister Abbie performed.

Ms. Palmer, who has practiced Irish step since she was 5 years old, said dancing is more than just a hobby for her; the FCC student plans to change her major from general education to dance therapy.

"I was just at a dance workshop

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Sisters: 60 seconds of fame

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for five hours," Ms. Palmer said. "My feet are still yelling at me. And I'll probably be in a talent show again this week."

Her sister Abbie, 16, has also been playing the Celtic harp for years. She might not pursue that instrument later, but she plans to make music her career.

The Palmer sisters might have had a leg-up on many of the other competitors who were performing publicly for the first time.

"I've never been filmed before," said a nervous Tim Jarman as he awaited the judges' feedback.

Tia Kisselbach, a full-time student who performed a dance routine with Shannon Blake, said she is typically shy and thought dancing before cameras and judges would be good for her.

Vince Coates, a self-described "professional student" who just began trying his hand at poetry in the past few months, also found the experience helpful.

"I was nervous, but I'm glad I tested myself," Mr. Coates said. "And for some reason, poetry is driving me to do this."

The entire event was planned, promoted and executed by Mr. Hightower's public relations class in a matter of three weeks, according to Keri Garman, who designed the "60 Seconds of Fame" logo.

"Instead of doing individual projects ... we're doing this as a group project," Ms. Garman said. "I think everyone definitely preferred it."

Sean P. Coleman, clad in a sparkly red vest, exceeded the competition and asked questions of performers after they were fin-

ished.

As far as the American Idol comparison, judges were more similar to Paula Abdul than Simon Cowell, giving encouragement as well as suggestions instead of insults.

"I could tell you're really good dancers, but you seemed nervous," said judge Bryn Heflin to one dance team. "I wanted you to really grind it."

Mr. Hightower said the class did everything from promotion and art to filming and judging.

"That was the real premise of the show," he said. Besides that, it was a lot of fun, he added.

And, Christa and Abbie Palmer have \$100 they will add to their gas fund and car fund.

The college plans to air the event on FCC's TV station (channel 23) in early May.