

## Life as a Runway

Never Mind Him.  
Ignore Her. Look at Me!

**A**MBITION comes in all sorts of guises. But they are rarely more quirky or varied than among those aspiring to a modeling or acting career. Portfolios in hand, dozens of hopefuls clustered last week outside a Champs Sports store in Harlem, at a casting call for "Yo Momma," with Wilmer Valderrama, on MTV. Over the weekend, hundreds of others lined up to try their luck at an open call by the International Talent Conference, a convention of agents and scouts held at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Flashing head shots and showy accessories, the aspiring actors/models/whatever seemed to think that getting attention is largely a matter of packaging. "I'm here to pursue my dream of becoming a hip-hop artist, or maybe

I'd like to be a model like Tyson," said Lee Wilson, 21 (at right in photo above), who arrived at Champs in a scarlet tracksuit with a Kangol hat to match.

Anna N'Jie (middle, far right), who turned up at F.I.T., hinted that she may have loftier goals: Ms. N'Jie, 18, accented a T-shirt emblazoned with the image of a society diva with chandelier earrings and pearls.

Nearby, Arthur Kornitsky, 18, (top, far right) swaggered like a cartoon action hero. He wore a snug-fitting shirt and suspenders that showed off his physique, his liberally pomaded hair cresting like a cockatoo.

In the quest for fame, talent is a plus. But, as many would-be stars will tell you, the bottom line is being seen.

Photographs by ELIZABETH LIPPMAN  
Text by RUTH LA FERLA

