

“Curtsey while you’re thinking about what to say. It saves time.”

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson
(aka Lewis Carroll)

1832 - 1898

Through the Looking Glass

C N Y

TWIN TITLES CAPTURED BY COURT BEAUTIES IN CHERRY GROVE

By Fabu LaRue

Seven very different, talented and lovely ladies, including yours truly, competed for the titles of Miss Gay New York City and Miss Greenwich Village at Cherry Grove, Fire Island. The honors were captured, respectively, by the gorgeous and poised Leeza Monet (a difficult act to follow anywhere), and our own Brenda Starr, who ran close on Leeza's tasteful heels to round out two well-deserved calls. As far as this reporter is concerned, there were no real losers or winners — the dressing area was loads of fun, and everyone really helped each other out.

Pageant hostesses Ran-Dee and Gianna kept the show moving along, and Emperor Steven was dashing (as always) as he escorted the contestants to the stage. Victoria Weston narrated the evening gown competition, while Kitty Fouché hosted the swimwear section. Fire Island legend La Bella did a guest spot with her dance partner Angelo in a rendition of "Shall We Dance", and was truly beautiful. Tally judge Dina Dynell did a fab job with the tiaras for contestants Leeza, Brenda, Diva Jonee, Ann Tique, Trixie, Mandi, and Fabu LaRue. Judging were Dr. Robert Blumenreich, Roger Cortez, Saja Lee, Vanessa Diamond, and Leggs Shapiro. The backstage crew really had it under control, under the direction of Daisy Mae, who did everything from steaming gowns to assisting us on the stairs.

A well-deserved celebration at Cherry's went on until dawn, but we managed to chat with the winnahs nonetheless:

FABU: Leeza, were you surprised to win? I thought you were having a heart attack.

LEEZA: It's a great honor, and very exciting. I get to ride in a big white Cadillac convertible (on Gay Pride Day). Before the competition, we all agreed to give a good show and



Photo by John D. Nieman
above
Leeza Monet
Miss New York City



Photo by Gilles Larrain

left
Brenda Starr
Miss Greenwich
Village

The Court Circular

The Official Newsletter
of the Imperial Court of New York



New York, NY 10003

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To raise funds for Gay & Lesbian Community and social service organizations; to provide a safe, social environment for people with the same interest as those of the corporation; to create and promote positive Community awareness of the ideals of the Imperial Court System.

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The Executive Board of the Imperial Court of New York meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The General Membership meets on the first Wednesday of each month at The Center, 208 West 13th St. at 8:00pm.

just have fun. Any one of us could have walked away with it.

FABU: Thanks Leeza, you're beautiful inside and out. So Brenda, Now that you're Miss Greenwich Village, are you going to Disney World?

BRENDA: I'm very happy – the Village is a unique collaboration of people like me, and I'm happy to represent them.

FABU: What did you expect at the top of the show?

BRENDA: I didn't approach it like a traditional pageant. Each category had a concept. I took a chance and put Brenda out there. It's nice to know that as an artist, I was able to communicate with the audience. Very gratifying.

FABU: Thanks, kids, that's all I need to know. 

CALLING ALL CANDIDATES

The upcoming August issue of *The Court Circular* will be dedicated exclusively to statements by the declared candidates for the ICNY Monarchy and Board. Candidates for Empress and Emperor should submit photos to run with their statements. In either case, statements should speak to the candidates' views and qualifications, and should run no more than 350 words. Copy may be edited for length; editing for clarity will be done with the candidate's consultation if necessary. *Deadline for statements and photos is Wednesday, July 31st.* 

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thom Hansen

As you know, the election of monarchs and board members is coming soon. Voting is a privilege and a responsibility. You must be a member in good standing to vote, as defined below:

1. Payment of annual dues (\$30) at the first meeting of the fiscal year (September).
2. Attendance at a minimum of 50% of general membership meetings for the fiscal year.
3. Plus at least one of the following:
 - a) Participation in at least two (2) Court affiliated fund-raisers/philanthropic events.
 - b) Purchase or sale of one (1) advertisement in the annual NOATG journal (may be your own ad at reduced members' rate).
 - c) Participation in at least one ICNY

event working committee (may include NOATG, Hallowe'en dance committees, etc.).

d) Attendance at at least one (1) out-of-town Coronation.

Basically, your responsibilities are to uphold the purposes of the Court as outlined in the by-laws. Our election should not be a popularity contest; rather, the selection of those individuals best qualified and deserving to serve our organization.

As you look over the candidates, please keep this in mind. 

CIRCULAR DEADLINES & GUIDELINES

To those wishing to contribute to these pages, please do not take your editor's often cavalier way with a deadline as example to yourselves. Rather, be advised that the copy deadline for any month's issue falls on the first of the month. We welcome all to this journal, especially those who might cover events in which the Court is involved (Miss Fabu's fingers are fairly worn to the nub). In general, your editor looks most kindly upon the short and tart, rather than the circuitous, rambling or soporific. Write as you speak: talk to us. In addition, writers covering any event in which they have participated might wish to avoid excessive reference to themselves; it is unseemly. Kindly direct features to Miss Kitty, Calendar items to Bill Patterson, photos to Brian, and news to myself. Please advise Kitty of any potential advertisers. And boys and girls, please do not fail to sign your work. We will run it under whatever name you prefer – there is no standard – but we do need to know who wrote it. Finally, we hope to live long enough to see all work submitted on diskette with attached hard copy, so we are not forced to re-write everything by hand. Love and Kisses, Kay Sera. 

FABU-LOUS VIEWS

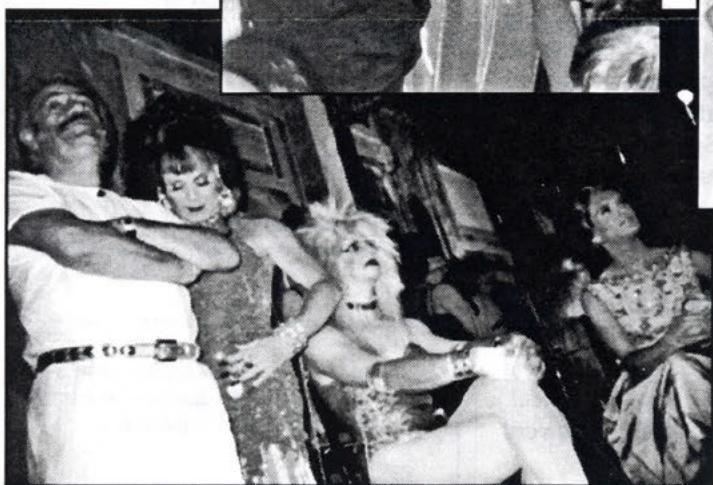
by the Raving Reporter, Fabu La Rue

June 24 – Bill Clinton Dines at the Waldorf while NYC's Gay community dances in the streets – The Center's annual Garden Party was more like a two and a half block-long street party. The food was great, the crowds were immense, and the Center was jammed to the rafters with expensive items donated for the silent auction, an annual highlight of the fundraiser on Thirteenth Street. Daisy Mae brought

ICNY MIDNIGHT BENEFIT AT ROME

Right
Hostess of the evening, D'va Robér introduces Empress X Ran-Dee

Below
Prince Tom, La Grande Princess Royale Gianna, lady Zondra Foxx and Countess Viveca Fairfax enjoy the show



left
H.I.M. Empress IX Philomena

Right
Empress X Ran-Dee & Lady Tammie Recine, the Raving Photographer



Above
Vicomtesse Charlene Chivoe shows some skin

Right
Charlene Chivoe on her knees before Baroness Leeza Monet, Miss NYC '96

Photos by Tammie Recine

us together, providing the balloons we were to raffle off. There were over fifteen of us on hand, most of us in civvies – was it the heat? – but resplendent as usual was H.M.S.I.M. Empress Ran-Dee in a white beaded cocktail dress and Emperor Steven in formals with red sash. Boro Prez Ruth Messinger delivered best line of the evening, promising to "spruce up" her hair for the fall elections. Well... wouldn't you?

June 23 – Drag Tag, Cherry Grove – Oh, in all that hot sun, it was amazing to see several hundred men trying on dresses. An unbelievable sight, all to pay for this year's Gay Pride floats. Bravo, Shonda, with great help from Deanna Jean Monroe and Billie Ann Miller, who handled the cash, wouldn'tcha know. On hand were Daisy Mae, Delta, Nana, Viveca, Elario, Bella (in wigs), Victoria (jewelry), and Fabu La Rue in the Bargain Basement (*I heard that!*). Shonda sez the take was just shy of a grand. Well, *Grand!*

June 25 – From Broadway to La Scala at

Roses Turn – A more beautiful evening could not have been had to honor Their Most Imperial Majesties Ran-Dee and Steven. Viscontessa La Diva produced and hosted the evening, plus managed to perform five (count 'em) numbers, during two of which glass was apparently shattered. About forty were in attendance, all were enthusiastic. La Diva was evidently quite moved by the presentation of a bouquet from Emperor Steven. Brava, Tutti!

June 30 – The twenty-seventh annual Pride March – Such a day! Forecast was hot, humid, and sunny. Surprise, all – it drizzled (and poured) all day. But we braved it, and it was an exciting day! Our Leeza Monet, Miss Gay New York City, was chauffeured in a white Cadillac convertible. On the ICNY float, our Monarchs stood out in Imperial black against a general scheme of White and gold, with fifteen Courtiers on board in matching white and gold gowns and formals. A smaller group of Courtiers in red accompanied President Panzi on the

Fabulous Fakes' Birdcage Review float a bit further down the line of the march. I'm so glad we did it – the best to everyone who participated with Pride on a rainy day!

July 7 – Invasion of the Pines, Cherry Grove – The Goddess of Drag must have been watching. A perfect day, sunshine and breezes. About thirty of us joined the over two hundred invaders, a record number according to Invasion founder Thom Hansen, and over a thousand cheering us on at the boat dock in the Pines. There was champagne and flowers for us all, and the hair spray, lip gloss and powder was flying. Dame Edna interviewed us all back at the Ice Palace, with the traditional promenade around the pool, and then off for more merriment at Cherry's. We were beautiful, we were bold. Her Majesty Queen Timothea was coiffed and tailored as only the Queen of England might be. Court Voyeur Wolfgang captured it all on video. Thanks again to Panzi for such an exciting event...Kiss Kiss.



The staff of the *Court Courier* was saddened to learn of the passing of court member Barone Beyond, aka Jamie Seguin, on Wednesday, June 26th. His presence in the Court will be greatly missed by so many of us.

Jamie expressed his gratitude to the Court and its members for the many cards and flowers that were sent to him during his long stay in the hospital.

VICTOR/VICTORIA (ONSTAGE & OFF)

by *Baroness Bella*

I couldn't wait!!! The date was Saturday, January 20th, and Lucky members of the Imperial Court were going to see "Victor/Victoria". I was disappointed at first, hearing that Julie Andrews could not appear that night, but when I saw our most gracious and beautiful Empress IX Philomena, Princess Royale Panzi and Countess Fabu LaRue, I knew it would be a special night.

The show was, of course, Fabulous! But I must get down to the genuine dirt, in which our Empress declared her intention to "shed a tear", and to do it in the men's room. She was at once joined by Panzi (very slinky, purple sequins), and Fabu (tight strapless). Well, my dears, I ran to get to the men's room ahead of the others. There was an unsuspecting gentleman already at the urinals, and when in walked Glitz, Glamour and Sparkle, he gasped aloud, raising both hands to his mouth, which left business unattended, causing chaos and wet trousers, and almost splattering Bella! The poor man left cursing that it was one thing to see such a thing on stage, but...

After the show, we were given a grand backstage tour, which was wonderful. Thank you, Barone Scott Jeffery for a very special evening.

CONGRATULATIONS

And Best Wishes to Brian Christopher Kelley and Rick Lipton on their NYC Domestic Partnership.

THE COURT CIRCULAR ADVERTISING RATES

Half Page Horizontal: \$65.
($7\frac{1}{2}$ w / $4\frac{7}{8}$ h)

Half Page Square: \$60.
(5 w / $6\frac{1}{2}$ h)

Third Page Horizontal: \$30.
(5 w / $3\frac{3}{16}$ h)

Third Page Vertical: \$30.
($2\frac{3}{8}$ w / $6\frac{1}{2}$ h)

Column Inch: \$5.
(6 lines about 40 words)

Contact *Kitty Fouché* at 201-759-3845 for ad placement or additional information.

Display ads must be camera ready or on Mac compatible disks. Design services are available for an additional fee. Advance payment required for all advertisements. Ad deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to publication.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

Saturday, July 20

- *Coronation* - San Diego, CA at the U.S. Grant Hotel, \$50. - contact Empress Ran-Dee

Saturday, July 27

- *2nd Annual Pre-White Party Brunch* - 1:00 pm, "Rear Mezzanine", 21A Lewis Walk, Cherry Grove - RSVP to Randy & Johnny or Steven & Fred.
- *White Party*, F.I. - contact Empress Ran-Dee

Sunday, July 28

- *Hearts & Voices* - St Luke's - contact Kitty

Wednesday, July 31

- *Board Applications* due into Panzi

AUGUST

Thursday, August 1

- *Rent Theater Party*, \$40. at the Nederlander Theater, 208 W 41 St. - contact Matt Baney

Wednesday, August 7

- *ICNY General Meeting*: Monarch Candidates Speak

Saturday, August 10

- *Royal Command Performance of Broadway LIPS* - 10:00 pm at Cherry's, Cherry Grove - contact Johnny Cella

Sunday, August 18

- *Morning Party*, Fire Island - contact Tom DeConza

Monday, August 19

- *Royal Review* at the Ice Palace, Cherry Grove, F.I. - contact Billie Ann

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 7

- *ICNY General Meeting*: Elections of Monarchs and Board Members

Tuesday, November 19

- *A Royal Birthday Celebration for Emperor VI Steven* - 8pm "Chicago" Theater Party, \$60.75. Payment no later than August 7 - contact Johnny Cella

MARCH - 1997

Saturday, March 22

- *Night of 1000 Gowns* - Coronation, New York, NY at the Hilton New York - contact Empress X Ran-Dee & Emperor VI Steven.