Volume Two, Issue Eight

"I have everything I had twenty years ago, only it's all a little bit lower."

> Gypsy Rose Lee Striptease artist





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Imperial Court of New York

As we begin another decade of royal tradition, I can't help but look back to where we have been and smile with pride. We have indeed come a long way. When we started ten years ago, the Court was simply a group of men throwing a party (Night of a Thousand Gowns) for a good cause. They probably didn't imagine that the Ball would endure. As a way to raise more money, lifetime titles were sold. Anyone who had money could become royalty, you didn't have to marry one. Unfortunately, the "clique" was not growing. There were no members. Either you were part of a chosen few or you're not, titles didn't mean a thing then.

Six years ago, Razor, Camille & Saleen (departed Empresses all) and myself got together to re-organize this Court into a membership organization. We realized that for this organization to grow, we must reach out and involve more members of the Community. We

each chipped in our own money, got a loan from the Center, performed at the Roxy and donated our fee back to the Court. Six months later, we were able to continue the tradition, held the Ball, and raised \$11,000 for the Center. As the say, the rest is history.

I am gratified that you have all chosen to be part of this grassroots organization. I believe in our mission and am proud of our accomplishments. The Court is here to provide a fun, safe, and empowering setting for members of the transgender community and friends to co-exist and thrive. As our founder, Jose - the Widow Norton, fondly admonishes us, "United we stand, Divided they will get us one by one."

So let's gather up our skirts, polish our boots, and wear our crowns with pride. Let us walk down that jewel paved road together with hope ... and a little bit of fun!

Charles Ching Absolute Empress VII Coco LaChine Celetial Dragon Empress Heir Apparent, 3rd in line of succession

The Court Circular

The Official Newsletter of the Imperial Court of New York





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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steven Frear

Reigning Emperor & Executive Board

Randy Riggs

Reigning Empress & Executive Board

Charles Ching

President

Original Incorporator

Fred Frick

Vice President & Membership Chairman

Bill LaMonica

Treasurer

Victor Grossetti

Secretary

Garret Malter

Executive Board

Philip Stoehr

Executive Board

Domenico Tolipani Executive Board

CIRCULAR STAFF

Steven Frear

Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief

Richard Eagen Features Editor

Kitty Fouché Style Editor

Bill Patterson

Calendar Editor Victor Grossetti

Contributing Editor Dom Tolipani

Contributing Editor

Tammie Recine Raving Photographer

Brian H. Crede Art Director

Tom McNamara Circulation Manager

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

BAR PERSON'S BALL

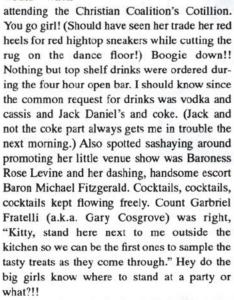
by Kitty Fouché

Well, well, when the ICNY goes partying THEY go partying! Having to pass on reporting on Imperial Court of Toronto's illustrious ball (since I spent most of my time getting to know a particular "Mounted" Policeman whom I'll call "Dudley DoRight" while playing out the

role of "Miss Nell" in undress, oh, I meant distress?!) it is my distinctive privilege and out-right duty to print the truth about New York's notorious (14th Annual at that!) Bartender's Ball at the Copacabana on West 57th Street Monday night October 14th and the stunning appearance the Imperial Court of New York made.

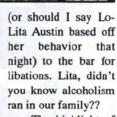
Beads, bangles, and beehives graced the beautiful dinner club at

cocktail hour where many of the courtiers were spotted wearing gowns of exquisite taste. Why even Lady Zondra Foxx was tastefully dressed in a simple frock for the evening just as if she would when



On to the main dinning hall. Seated at fabulous tables on the dance floor and arms reach to the bar were: HMISM Empress X Rand-Dee and HMISM Emperor VI Steven; ICPR Gianna and ICPR Tom; Princess Lita Austin; Count Wolfgang von Busch; Princess Trompe L'oeil and Lord Faux Bois; Baroness Anne Tique and Lord Ron; Countess Tedi DeBare; and Baroness Bella. Also attending were Baron

Angelo and guest, Princess Victoria Weston, Lady Zondra Fox, Count Gabriel and guest, Lady Diva Jonee', HIM Empress VIII Billie Ann Miller and two guests, HIM Empress IX Philomena, Duke William with guest Rosalie, Kammersangerin Viscontess La Diva, and of course your author in male drag. Apologies to those courtiers I missed mentioning. I probably didn't see you while I battled and pushed my way passed my daughter, Princess Lita Austin



The highlight of the evening came when all the court ladies retired to the washroom only to return wearing each other's hair. What a

scandle! What a sight! When asked, "Bella, who's wig do you have?" Her eyes cut through my cocktail glass and said, "I have my own thank you!. It's (wig) to well glued to my head." Sorry, Bella, but you missed out on the fun. Our entree' of "Sir-Loin-of-Beef" and accouterments was served promptly at 11:30 PM. This was done to absorb the massive amounts of booze poured at our tables. You would think that at 11:30 with a side of beef in our bellies we would be ready to go home, but when DJ Jonny Pool played the Margorana, all hopped onto the floor and shook their groove thing. And of course we can't forget how Gianna and Lita kept lifting up their gowns in an attempt to release some tribal reaction to the cassis they had been drinking all night long. And ladies, I have pictures!!

If you think this was the party Three Dog Night sang about, "...moma told me not to come", you are right! I have never seen a smarter looking group of hard workers and dedicated community leaders let loose and enjoy themselves. We really had fun and you should plan to attend next year. Until then kids, remember don't mix vodka and cassis while wearing a dress or you too will be doing tribal dances you'll regret in the morning! &





The Imperial Court of New York presents

"BIG BLANCHE" AND A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

a benefit for Friends For Life at

FEATHER'S

77 Kinderkamack Road, Edgewater, NJ 201-342-6410

STARRING

SCOTT COOPER as Marilyn

EMPRESS RAN-DEE • KEVIN JACKSON as Diana Ross with special guest performances from the Fabulous Fakes and the ICNY

on

Thursday, November 14, 1996

Raffle

at 10:00pm

Raffle

Suggested Donation: \$5.



THE IEWELED CIRCUS

by Steven Frear

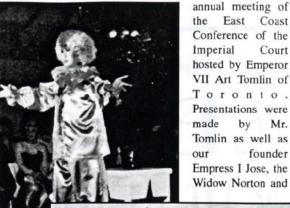
TORONTO, ONTARIO Many people think the city of brotherly love is Philadelphia, Pa., but for the Imperial Court of New York the city that holds that title is the home of our brother court -Toronto.

The weekend of October 12th twenty-seven members of the ICNY and their friends traveled to Toronto to celebrate the Decade Ball with The Imperial Court of Toronto. Styled as "The Jeweled Circus", this year's ball celebrated the reigns of Emperor

IX Peter Sutton and Empress IX Candice.

The weekend started for some of our members on Thursday night at the State Dinner which was followed by The Decade Show which featured performances by the past monarchs of the Toronto Court. Friday night the festivities began with cocktails at Woodies followed by the Out-of-Town Show at Jack's. The show was hosted by Empress I elected

Lauren Michaels of Toronto and featured performances by several of our members including Lady Jacqueline Jonee, Princess Victoria Weston, the Imperial Crown Princess Royale Gianna and their majesties Emperor VI Steven and Empress X Ran-Dee. After the show, we all adjourned to Remington's for more cocktails and what you. Some retired early



East Coast Conference of the Court hosted by Emperor VII Art Tomlin of Toronto. Presentations were Mr. Tomlin as well as founder Empress I Jose, the Widow Norton and



Majesties, IPCR Gianna, Princess Lita Austin, and the Baronesses Leeza Monet and Ann Tique. The number was quite a success despite the platform taking an unexpected rotation. Other highlights of the evening included a command performance by our new found friends from Remington's (the performance was on stage not back stage) and the Dowager walk by Empress VIII Dusty. She looked wonderful; it was great to see her back on her feet again! In keeping with the theme of the night, our Court walk featured the ladies of the court in brightly colored gowns with wigs and balloons to match. The gentlemen of the court carried silver balloons and their Majesties carried silver and gold.

For the final act of the evening their Majesties were honored to be asked to be seated at the dais by Emperor Peter and Empress Candice. The Ball culminated after midnight with the coronation of the newly elected monarchs - Emperor X Gary Farr and Empress X Scarlett.

The Victory Brunch found everyone refreshed and rested and ready to eat. Of the many accolades presented that morning the ICNY was honored with the "Best in Theme



Saturday was a very busy day filled with rehearsals, last minute shopping, balloons, etc. Baroness Josephine Boner Part entered the "Empress of Hog Town" competition but unfortunately, lost to Empress II Lee Daniels of Rhode Island. Saturday also featured the semiEmpress VII Coco LaChine New York. Emperor Steven will report to the Court the highlights and resolutions of the conference at our next membership meeting.

Saturday night "The Jeweled Circus" began with the Toronto Court in an opening number under the big top. It was a fun filled evening of fabulous command performances by several out-of-town monarchs including our own Coco LaChine backed up by their Court Walk" and Coco was honored with not only "BEST in Theme Individual" for her daring clown costume but, she was also made "ICP of Hog Town". Congratulations to the Court and to Coco!

The brunch was not the end of the festivities however. Although many members had to catch a flight back to the city, those who stayed report that Baron Grant Anderson was one of the stars of the Tough Drag Show held Sunday night.

All in all we had a wonderful time in Toronto! Our deepest thanks to Candice, Peter, Art, J.J., Bob Toane, Sophie De Lee, Lauren Michaels and all of the members of the TICOT.

"QUEEN" INES OF PORTUGAL

by Robert Sorrell

One of my favorite aspects of "Court Life" is the titillation caused by intrigue and gossip. The Grand Duchess loves a scandal (as long as it does not involve her)! I am always quick to point out, however, that our most lurid situations cannot compare to the goings on in the days of the "Divine Right" of monarchs. The most bizarre example I have uncovered so far involves Crown Prince Pedro of the House of Burgundy that once ruled Portugal.

Pedro's third spouse, Ines Pires de Castro, was originally his second wife's Maid of Honor. As she was not of Royal blood they married in secret. Ines's brothers plotted against the throne and caused their sister's death by order of the King Alfonso IV. After a civil war and the king's death, Pedro became King Pedro I's of Portugal. He then initiated the most macabre coronation ever which I will quote directly from Debrett's Kings and Queens of Europe.

Pedro I's first act on his accession was to avenge Ines. Two of her murderers were handed over to him by Castile and duly executed before his eyes, their hearts being drawn out of their bodies, one through the chest and one through the back. The third murderer managed to escape to England and evade this fate. Pedro now declared that he had been secretly married to Ines on 1 January 1354, a year before her murder, and ghastly scenes were to follow. The murdered woman's body was disinterred from its grave at Coimbra and taken to the convent of Alcobaca, where, on 24 April 1361, arrayed in royal robes and propped up on a throne, it was solemnly crowned in the presence of the whole court and then reinterred. A magnificent tomb was erected by Pedro and his own tomb was constructed at its feet in such a way that the first thing he and Ines might see on the day of resurrection would be each other.

We are so glad not to have been Protocol Minister in Portugal in 1361 AD. Not even our most scandalous coronations can compare to the "good old days" do not you agree? I suppose it was this event that earned Pedro the sobriquet "Pedro the Severe."

DEWAR'S TURNS 150

by Zondra Foxx

Doesn't it ever stop?! The social whirl relentlessly began after Wigstock (not) with a skirl of bagpipes. Dewar's and party maven Suzanne Bartsch took over Castle Clinton in Battery Park Tuesday, September 10th for a lavish freebie "invitation only" birthday party. If this party was private, so is the morning rush at Penn Station! Obviously the theme was Scottish: tartans by the mile in uses undreamt of by the originating clansmen,

bagpipers, livery clad heralds, mounted "horse"men in quasi-mediaeval attire, the Loch Ness Monster (a real party animal), and a birth-day cake, of course.

Even with electrical problems erratically intervening, the festivities rolled on. Various living tableaux, composed of all the usual suspect drag queens Suzanne usually employs, were arranged around the inside of the fort, and on the stage as well, the latter later used for a weird runway costume contest. Outside, along the river, was a human "sculpture" garden. And everywhere it was wall-to-wall drag queens. All the queens you know and love. Suzanne can sure bring them (us) out. So soon after Wignot, it seemed almost an encore.

Though not an official ICNY event, the courtiers turned out and dressed for the affair. Coco, Swana (who shaved her legs for the occasion!), Delta, Dina Dynell (with enough crystal for a chandelier), Leeza Monet, Ron, Brenda the watermelon woman (not her shape, the dress motif), and authoress Zondra who turns up everywhere. Apologies if I omitted anyone. And shame on you if you missed this. Even though not exactly centrally located, it was worth the trip. The accompanying photos will give a rought idea of our cavorting courtiers. On to the next party!!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Attention all Court members. The Board of Directors of the ICNY and the staff of the Court Circular are seeking a sponsor for our newsletter. Our annual production costs are \$2500. (that's \$25./member out of your \$30. membership dues!). To defray the costs the Court Circular is seeking patronage. If you or your company would like to help us please contact Steven Frear, at 201-722-1930.



INCOMING ICNY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations to the new '96-'97 Board of Directors and Monarch Elects &

COMPUTER SERVICES – Internet: connections – software installation and configuration – training – web-site design. Custom-built computers – hardware upgrades & installation.

Call Sony at (201) 384-5884 or sonam@carroll.com

Sexy, Chic or Dramatic

WIGS by Sandie

PROFESSIONAL HAIRGOODS

302 West 238 Street Riverdale, NY 10463-2207 Phonè: 718 884 6024 Fax: 718 601 1932

YOUR Coif Candy Store

Custom fittings in a relaxed and friendly setting.

- 100's of contemporary styles & colors
- Professional hair guidance
- Private setting
- Pass or theatrical image
- Restyling available
- Duplication of color & style from ANY photo or print ad!

If you would like to keep informed about all our upcoming events and special happenings including future Holiday specials, please register for our mailing list by entering the requested information below. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or special requests you may have.

NAME:		
ADDRESS:_	7710	
CITY:		
STATE:	_ZIP:	K Cha
PHONE:		
FAX:	7.504	Market S
	optional	

Free Consultation with this Ad!

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Sunday, December Saturday, December Sunday, December Friday, January 17	er 14 – SAGE Holiday Social – r 29 – Evita, the movie – SONY 7, 1997 – ICNY Holiday Party (on Revue"- World AIDS Day benefit fo	– Dom Tolipani rmal – \$55. – Tom DeConza			Colorado Coronation, Colorado Springs – Victor Grosetti
3	1	5	8:00 PM – General Membership Meeting @ the Center.	8:00 PM "When Pigs Fly"@ Fairbanks Theatre, 432 W. 42 St Tom DeConza	8	9
1 () []	12	13	10:00 PM - "ICNY/NJ Invasion" @ Feather's 77 Kinderkamack Rd., Edgewater NJ Emperor Steven or Gary Cosgrove	Happy Birthday Princess Lita Austin Consort to the Emperor	Modesta, CA Coronatio Victor Grosetti
Emperor Steve Birthday!	en's 18	8.00 P.vi - "Chicago" Royal Birthday Party for Emperor VI Steven @ Richard Rodgers Theatre 226 W. 46 St.	20	21	22	23
Brunch — time/pri @ LIPS, 2 Bank S Fred Frick		26	27	28	29	30

DESTINATION.

NEGRIL

CHELSEA'S BEST JAMAICAN CUISINE

80

ISLAND SPICE

MIDTOWN'S BEST JAMAICAN CUISINE

AUTHENTIC JAMAICAN CUISINE ON THE WEST SIDE

LORD BOBSIE COLON, GENERAL MANAGER

come experience the magic !

WE Deliver!

NEGRIL 362 WEST 23RD STREET (BTWN 8TH & 9TH AVES) 212-807-6411

BUY ONE ENTREE GET SECOND ENTREE FOR HALF-PRICE

VALID MONDAYS & TUESDAYS
AT NEGRIL ONLY

HOURS

LUNCH 11 am - 4 pm (M-Sat)
DINNER 4 pm - 12 am (M-F)
4 pm - 1 am (Fri & Sat)
2 pm - 12 am (Sun)

ISLAND SPICE

402 WEST 44TH STREET (BTWN 9TH & 10TH AVES) 212-765-1737