

IMPERIAL
COURT

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The Court Circular

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Night Of A Thousand Gowns!

by Matt Baney

What is that? Ask anyone who was at the Marriot Marquis on March 28th and you will get a thousand different responses. Boas! Black Suits! Above all, Beauty and Elegance! What a night!!

The week's festivities began with the Prince and Princess Show at Splash. Our own bedazzled beauties took the stage at the ever popular neighborhood bar, which also happens to generously support the activities of the ICNY. The night was well-received by the crowd and generated \$2,200 for the beneficiary LAMDA Legal Defense. Nice Job!!!

Next up was the Out of Town Show chaired by Victoria Weston and Chet Cagle. Many of our visiting luminaries came together for a show of stunning proportions. Well attended and fun for all, the show raised another \$2,200 for our second beneficiary, the New York City Gay Men's Chorus.

The big night on Saturday started relatively on time, for us anyway. Over 730 tickets were sold for the dinner with an additional 52 silver tickets for the after 10 pm crowd. The tourists in the hotel were not prepared for this event. After a nice cocktail hour, our guests were seated for the first act of the evening. Empress Gianna was a radiant Mame in an imperial performance of "It's Today" accompanied by a cast of ICNY members as well as a visiting dignitary or two. The number was beautiful and our Gianna looked lovely. A special thanks should go out to our Lita Austin for a spectacular job with the costumes. And wasn't our Emperor Tomas cute as Beauregard? After the usual speeches, the show continued with the Decade Anniversary Walk of Empress III Chene La Rochelle. How about that boa? Rochelle knows how to work a crowd. The Imperial Diamond Award was then presented to the founders of MAC Cosmetics by our reigning duo. Following this presentation knight-hoods were given out to Harry Bartel and Brian Landeche, the owners of Splash, and Wolfgang Busch, consort to the Emperor. Another emotional moment in the history of NOATG.

Act II began with a special performance by the Empress of Connecticut, Bambi Lee who is also Empress XI 1/2 of our ICNY. Then came the out of town courts. This year's representation was better than ever with attendees from all over the country. Emperors and Empresses from the West Coast, (including San Francisco, Portland, San Diego) to the Mid West (including Denver) to our own Eastern seaboard were all there. (It didn't hurt that the Jose Honors awards were given out the night before to special people from across the country including our own Empress IX Philomena. Did she look gorgeous or what!) Dowager Emperor VI Steven then treated us to

a special rendition of opera, once again featuring costumes created by Lita Austin. Fantastic! Then Dowager Empress X Ran-Dee was Ethel Merman.

Tough act to follow, let me tell you. Finally came the presentation of the ICNY and the Collage of Monarchs. That, too, was an extremely sentimental moment.

A command performance by *When Pigs Fly* opened the final act.

Unfortunately our founder Empress I Jose, the Widow Norton, couldn't attend the evening due to unforeseen circumstances. But our lovely Queen Mother, Empress Nicole, was gracious enough to step in and represent Empress Jose on short notice. The final walks of Empress Gianna and Emperor Tomas fol-

lowed. Gianna glowed beautifully as she enchanted the audience with her performance and thank you's to so many who touched her reign. Emperor Tomas did the same. The final event of the evening was the coronation ceremony for our new reigning monarchs, Empress XII Panzi and Emperor VIII William. The Emerald Isle will never be the same! Both looked superb accompanied by a large family of green-clad brothers and sisters to support them through the coming year. After the brief ceremony, Empress Panzi and Emperor Tomas exited to overwhelming applause and a full social calendar for their reign.

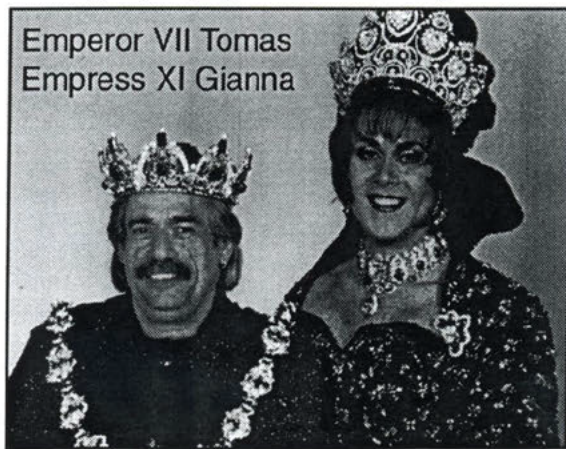
A final tally for the evening showed the Raffle raised over \$6100. Thank you to the chairs of this committee for collecting such an array of items, something for everyone. The Title Sales raised \$500 which was quite respectable. The net profit from ticket sales of \$23,600 will be split between the evening's beneficiaries, Body Positive and PWAC-NY

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success. On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for being so cooperative with ticket sales and table assignments. I couldn't have asked for a nicer group of people. We are a family!

Empress XII Panzi
Emperor VIII William



Emperor VII Tomas
Empress XI Gianna



The Court Circular

The Official Newsletter
of the Imperial Court of New York



New York, NY 10003

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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 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.

Letter from the Editor...

Welcome to a Time Capsule Edition of our Newsletter! We have done so much and been so many places since our Coronation Week, we are going to list a cavalcade of events to astonish and amuse you:

March 29: NYCGMC at Avery Fisher Hall, with attendance by Empresses Ran-Dee and Gianna and Dusty (of Toronto) with her consort, Douglas. New Monarchs William and Panzi attending along with Empress Alexis Miranda of San Francisco, and members of the Emerald Empire.

March 30: GLAAD's Awards Dinner, attended by Empresses Panzi, Coco and Philomena.

April 1: Tough Drag Show at The Web, co-chaired by Count Steven (Carpenter) and Prince Royale Gabriel Della Notte, with Gabriel emceeing the fabulous performances by men of the Court.

April 4: Denver, CO Coronation, attended by Empress Coco and Emperor William and Empress Panzi in their first out-of-town appearance.



ICNY members strut their leather stuff at "Folsom Street East."

April 12: Easter Parade, led by Empress Panzi and Emperor William, distributing literature regarding Children's Hope Foundation, with approximately 1/3 of the Court membership participating or in attendance.

April 16: Evil Show at Mother, in honor of Prince Royale Gabriel Della Notte's (Gary Cosgrove) birthday, with proceeds going towards ICNY's Gay Pride float.

April 18: Twirl Party hosted by Duke and Duchess von Birkenwaldau.

April 19: Investiture Dinner at LeMax, with the Monarchs inducting more people into their family, and granting title elevations to those deserving.

April 23: All Out Arts Community Service Awards with presentation to Empress Coco.

April 25: Buffalo Coronation — attended by TMISM William and Panzi, and Empress Billie Ann, along with approx. 18 other Court members, who are granted a Command performance at the Coronation. Empress Panzi received an Empress to Empress Award from Empress Mimi.

May 2: P-FLAG Brooklyn — benefit perfor-



Cabaret legend Julie Wilson with Empress Philomena at Caroline's Comedy Club.

mance at Spectrum, featuring Empresses Panzi, Coco and Philomena.

May 3: Miss Saleen's Miss Gay NYC Pageant, produced by Prince Royale Chet and Marquess Eduardo, awarding the Court's Jacqueline Jonée as First Runner Up, and Luisa Verde Second Runner Up, with proceeds going to PWAC-NY.

May 3: Dancers Responding to AIDS Benefit

at the Kit Kat Klub, with Court ladies and gentlemen invited to work as host/esses, raises \$14,000+ for DRA.

May 10: Caroline's Comedy Club Mother's Day show starring Empresses Panzi and Philomena, hosted by Julie Halston and featuring Angela LaGreca, Julie Wilson and KT Sullivan, nets \$2,000 for the Callen-Lorde



Empress Panzi makes a new friend at RI's out-of-town show.

(Continued on Insert)



Empress Panzi, Coco and Philomena schmooze with Sigourney Weaver at GLADD's Awards Dinner.

Center's Breast Care Program.

May 12: *MCAANY Bowling League Banquet* — with a Special Appearance by Empress Panzi.

May 16: *Rhode Island Coronation* attended by Emperors William and Tomas, and Empresses Panzi, Coco, Philomena and Billie Ann and approximately 30 ICNY members. Empress Panzi is given an Emperor to Empress Award by Emperor Ken Coté, and is named Sister to Emperor Scott, Empress Billie Ann is named Sister to Empress Jazzmine Taylor, and Dowager Grand Duchess Swana is given an award for Most In Keeping With Theme Walk.

May 17: *GMHC's Walk-a-Thon*, with costumed Court members coordinated by Princess Royale Brenda Starr.

May 18: *Stonewall Veterans Benefit* at Ecco L'Italia, featuring Marchioness La Diva, Empress Philomena, Princess Fabu la Rue, Baron Taudrey van Hemstitch, and genuine Stonewall Veterans.

May 21: The Center's *Human Sexuality Series' Gender Panel Discussion* including Philomena.

May 27: *Lord and Lady's Show* at the Web, chaired by Prince Royale Chet and Countess Jacqueline Jonee.

May 31: *Sea Tea* with Empresses Panzi, Coco and Philomena leading the Court performance.

June 7: *Lexington, KY Coronation*, attended by Empresses Panzi and Coco, Princess Royale Victoria Weston and Lady Viva Sexx. Empress Panzi and Lady Viva are given the honor of emceeing part of the Coronation, and Empress Coco gives a command performance. ICNY is named Sister Court to KY for the reign of Emperor John Moses and Empress Mika Milano, and Empress Panzi is named the First Appointed Honorary Empress of All of Texas.

June 8: *AmFAR's Boathouse*

Rock 7 Benefit at Central Park, attended by Emperor William, and Empresses Panzi, Coco and Philomena who are photographed by the National Enquirer and The Star with actress Kristen Johnson.

June 13: *SAGE party* at FIT with Court performance coordinated by Princess Royale Tedi de Bare.

June 15: *AmFAR/BCEFA* benefit performance of *Sweet Charity* at Avery Fisher Hall with the hosts graciously inviting Empresses Panzi and Coco, and Dowager Grand Duchess Swana and Viscountess Alejandra. Emperor William and Empress Philomena also attending with Count Michael (Shanahan).

June 16: *Versailles Night* at Mother's—with performances by ICNY members, produced by Prince Royale Gabriel Della Notte, donat-



Countess Angela Mercy and Freeta Chews at DRA's "Jimmy and The Boys II" at the Kit Kat Klub.



Emperor Art Tomlin of Toronto escorting Empress Coco at Rhode Island's Coronation.

ed \$300 back to the ICNY.

June 19: *God's Love We Deliver* benefit at the Ice Palace, coordinated by Lady Anidda Green Kard featuring many Court members.

June 20: *Gay Pride Rally* at Bryant Park with Emperor William and Empress Panzi officially announcing the beginning of Gay Pride Week.

June 20: *Rhode Island Gay Pride Parade*,



Gay Pride 1998



Empresses III, II and I... aka Robert Donnelly, Robert Legere and John Burke at the Investiture Dinner

and ICRI Investiture attended by Empress Philomena.

June 21: *Second Annual Folsom Street East* sponsored by GMSMA with Court ladies and gentlemen performing, and volunteers coordinated by Prince Royale Chet.

June 21: *AmFAR party* in honor of Larry King at the Plaza Hotel raises half-a-million dollars, and at which Empresses Panzi and Coco are photographed with Leona Helmsley for the Daily News.

June 21: *Drag Tag Sale* at the Ice Palace in Cherry Grove, produced by Princess Royale Shonda Lear and Empress Billie Ann raises almost \$1,000 for NY's Gay Pride Float.

June 22: *Center's Garden Party* with Court members assisting with the popular balloon raffle, coordinated by Grand Countess Patrice Roberts. TMISM William

and Panzi make an appearance, and then attend...

June 22: *NYCGMC concert (tribute to Gary Miller)* at Carnegie Hall.

June 25: *Regent's Gay Pride social reception* - co-chaired by Princess Royale Victoria and Prince Royale Gabriel Della Notte.

June 28: *Gay Pride Parade*, with the Court's Garden Party float an enormous success.

Lady Veronica De LaRoss as DJ, and Prince Royale Chet coordinating the float logistics, and Duchess Alexandra von Birkenwaldau as decoration chairperson. Princess Royale Mae Nicole and her consort Gene host the entourage for lunch following the Parade.

July 1: *To Have and To Hold* theatre party coordinated by Prince Royale Chet.

July 3: *Barbara Levy's Gallery Opening* in Cherry Grove, featuring photos of Court members by Margaret Robbins (and others) and the jewelry of Robert Sorrell, David Mandell and Larry Vrba,

Continued on back...

produced by Duchess Luisa Verde, has earned

over \$750 in commissions for the Court to date.

July 4: Invasion of the Pines — organized for the 23rd year by Panzi, featuring over 250 beautiful invaders, including many Court members, and the largest crowd ever in the Pines.

July 3 and 4th: Even Zee Orchestra Ees Beautiful — Cabaret show to benefit the APCG, produced by Panzi and Philomena, with Angela Mercy and Freeta Chews, and starring Jacqueline Jonée. A tasteful reception follows, hosted by Emperor William and Empresses Panzi and Philomena, honoring visiting dignitaries Empress Jazzmine Taylor of RI, Empress Stella of CT and Baroness Morgana DeLuxe of Hartford.

Well, that's where we've been since the Night of A Thousand Gowns! Many thanks to those who helped jog my memory, and many apologies to all those devoted members whose names we could not list due to space constraints, and the most apologies regarding any events we have accidentally omitted.



Prince Greene, Lord JacquesTrapp, Lord Craig and Marquess Matthius entertaining the troops at the Tough Drag Show.

Ed. - Philomena



T.M.I.S.M. William VIII and Panzi XII

New York's Community Health Project Re-Locates and Expands Services

by Natasha

Almost all of us have passed by the entrance of the Community Health Project (The CHP), on the second floor of the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, and a good many of us are pleased to be patients, clients, and volunteers. Last year alone, there were some twenty thousand patient visits to the CHP's many programs and clinics!

Since 1983, the CHP has been at the forefront of medical service — the only community-based health facility in New York providing medical care and treatment for New York City's lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and HIV/AIDS communities throughout the five boroughs. Many in our community are uninsured or underinsured and have low incomes, and so one of the great marks of the solidarity and compassion of the community is demonstrated by the CHP's history of providing quality, low cost, and accessible health care and related services in a sensitive, nonjudgemental environment, without regard to any patient's ability to pay. Today, with a paid staff of thirty five and well over 130 volunteers deliver primary care to patients through the General Medical Clinic, the Lesbian Health Program, the HIV/AIDS Primary Care Clinic, the HIV Assessment and Early Intervention Program, the Health Outreach to Teens (HOTT) Program, the Peer Counselling Program, and the Transgender Health and Education Clinic.

This is a landmark year, for in early Spring the CHP moved to new quarters a few blocks away, at 358 West 18th Street and become the Michael Callen-Audre Lorde Community Health Center. With that move, the Callen-Lorde Center became the largest lesbian and gay health center in the country, with the capacity to provide more than sixty thousand yearly patient visits. As a fully licensed health center, Callen-Lorde welcomes a variety of insurance plans, managed care plans, Medicaid/Medicare, and ADAP. With extended weekday and Saturday hours, and access for the differently abled, the new clinic provides new and expanded services, to included dental care, adolescent medicine, dermatology, on-site mammography and radiology, HIV counseling and testing, a health education resource center, and mental health and case management.

Fundamental to the mission of the clinic, however, is the policy of providing care without regard to anyone's ability to pay; and the Callen-Lorde Center's commitment continues to be to put patients' need first and to ensure unimpeded access to health care for the entire *lgbt* community and to people living with HIV and AIDS. What keeps the patients coming back is this commitment to their needs, and to provide quality medical care, sensitive to the needs and views of the community. This expansion and the move to new facilities will equip the CHP to continue to provide outstanding medical care to our communities well into the next century.

(Lynn Walker serves as a volunteer peer counsellor in the CHP's Trans Health Education Clinic.)

Meet the Lords and Ladies

by Freeta Chews and Angela Mercy

We've watched you girls when he walks into the room. There's an almost imperceptible pause - a near subtle silent gasp, lasting just a second; a heartbeat, if you will. Well, to quote one of our favorite 'B' movies (the name of which escapes us momentarily): "flaps down, flyboy, you're liable to take off." In other words, relax girls, he's very happily married and has been to these eleven long years. He's Lord Ray, that suave gentleman with the puppy dog eyes and Clark Gable mustache.



Originally from Detroit, he came to New York by way of

Dallas after a hitch in the Air Force and ...don't ask, we'll tell...a failed military romance! Though his name is French (LeFebvre) his voice is pure Irish tenor that won him a spot as the morning man on a popular Westchester radio station in 1969, a position he held for ten years. He now works in communications for a firm that develops and markets equipment for, among others, the Military. Guess you can take the uniform OFF the boy, but ...

Although Ray recently joined the Imperial Court, he has been a friend of the Court from the very beginning. He tells us he knew Sybil when ... well, before she was Empress. Ray and his partner Eddie have been attending Night of 1000 Gowns for several years, once as escorts to H.I.M. Empress X Ran-Dee and H.I.M. Empress XI Gianna. He wowed us as he sang our National Anthem as part of the opening ceremony in 1997 and the British National Anthem in 1998.

A Fire Island devotee for more than 10 years, Ray is very active in the Arts Project of Cherry Grove. Having made his debut as Sal Piro's first show, "Who Killed Rose Levine", Ray has since appeared in every show the APCG has produced. Last summer, he made his directorial debut with his Musical Revue, "Here's To Our Ladies", both a critical and financial success. Ray has wasted no time getting involved with participating in Court events; his first was with Panzi, Christmas caroling in the AIDS ward in St. Vincent's Hospital and then at the Triad with "Bella and Friends". Most recently, he melted hearts at the Web in the "Lord and Ladies" show.

Among his favorite things, Ray lists the importance of true friendship, good food and stimulating conversation; it is no surprise that he and Eddie host intimate dinner parties in their charming home. Joining the Imperial Court to support its charitable efforts and to help increase the male-dressing contingent, Ray always welcomes the opportunity to entertain and always does so, beautifully.

You might be asking yourself "Where have I seen her before?" Well, maybe you

ducked into Lips last month for a late night bite. That was her - that doe-eyed coquette who checked your wrap then slipped it around her shoulders as you sipped your first cocktail. You may have also caught her filling in as emcee for the late show one night. That's Baroness Mitzi, a new member on the move. Shortly after joining the Court last October, she landed this gig at one of our favorite eateries. Take note, honey, this one's got her eye on owning the joint! Mitzi claims Neeley O'Hara as one of her idols and we know for a fact that she's seen "Showgirls". She's five foot two, eyes of blue, but oh, what those five feet can do!

She was reared deep in the heart of the Adirondacks: Constableville, NY, population 400. For her 16th birthday, she picked out her first pair of shoes. Were the townspeople surprised that they were cha-cha heels? "Not really ...besides, Daddy was always sayin' I was the best kisser." She set out for the

bright lights ten years ago and first landed in Long Island City. Close, girl, but no cigar. After five years she made her move and has been a Chelsea girl ever since.

Mitzi works freelance in computer graphics and was quick to get involved with scanning photos for this year's journal. Her previous work experience includes a stint as a counselor in an all boys' summer camp when she was in college ... all charges have been dropped! Friends describe her as the Valley of the Dolls meets Dr. Seuss. (Is Whoville in the Adirondacks?) She performs, too! And sometimes on stage! Her first drag experience was several years ago doing Liza's "New York, New York" at a friend's going away party. Watch out girls, that's Mitzi with a "Z"! We caught her debut in Cherry Grove last summer: "Big Spender". As we stood in the wings, someone was overheard saying "...she sounds just like Shirley Bassey!" (Duhhh!) When asked about her interest in joining the Court, she replied that she had met so many wonderful members on Fire Island last summer and was touched by their camaraderie and commitment. She's been a busy little bee ever since joining the Court. She has wowed the audiences as Baby Jane holding a life-size Joan Crawford doll at our Halloween Party at the Center and as a blushing bride (Madonna) at the Sage Pride Social. She can also wowed them with a Tina Turner favorite - quite a versatile girl. And, she's anxious to do more.

What does she stand for? "The celebration of our diversity, respecting individuality and everyone's right to big hair and superglam make-up." Spoken like a true beauty pageant contestant, and this one ain't settling for Miss Congeniality.



Courtier's Accomplishments

by Grand Duchess Tori Adore

There are heroes in our midst. Baron Patrick O'Connell, who with his partner Baron Jimmy Morrow comprise one of the cutest couples of the court, recently spent a month in the United Kingdom. Patrick, whose illustrious career as an artist, curator, and activist could fill up the pages of this entire publication, is probably best known for founding Visual AIDS, (Artists Response to AIDS), launching the Day Without Art on December 1, 1989 which has evolved into World AIDS Day, and creating the Ribbon Project as a symbol of compassion and support for People With AIDS and their caregivers.

A brief rundown of some of this amazing



Photo credit: Clay Debevoise

man's accomplishments: as a curator he was instrumental in launching the careers of Cindy Sherman and David Salle; a founder of Artists' Space; an AIDS activist with ACT UP New York; Executive Director of Artists' Caucus; a founder of the AIDS Working Group of the National Endowment for the Arts; a founder of the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression; and a founder of the D.I.A. Center for the Arts. He has been the recipient of the New York State Governor's Arts Award for curating Visual AIDS; the Penny McCall Curator 'Genius Award' for his 20 year career as an innovative curator, and the 1993 recipient of the Special Achievement Award

from the Council of Fashion Designers of America for the Ribbon Project.

Patrick used his vast connections in the theater industry to promote the Ribbon Project, and red ribbons were worn by most of the stars on the 1989 Tony Awards presentation, which met with strong opposition from some quarters. Today, the red ribbon is seen on most nationally televised awards programs, and has served to broaden the dialogue and public discourse and ask for help in the fight against AIDS.

Patrick has been a powerful voice at N.E.A. hearings, having testified three times before Congress advocating more money and less censorship for art in America. Recently, Patrick and Jimmy were guests of the President and First Lady at the White House at a ceremony and luncheon for the 20 National Merit Honors in Arts and Humanities.

On December 1, 1995, a Day Without Art, Patrick was given the President's Citation by his alma mater, Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Patrick related upon hearing the list of his achievements, "It all sounded so planned, as though I chose this path. Most of what I have done has been to amuse myself and because I believe art has the language and power to effect change. I also believe that to whom much is given, much is expected."

When in London last year, Patrick received an award from a consortium of AIDS organizations in Great Britain, including the national AIDS Trust, that will henceforth be known as the Patrick O'Connell Award. The award will be presented annually to the most innovative organization or individual promoting HIV education. As an exclusive scoop for our readers, Patrick revealed that the award will next be presented to the Princess Diana Charitable Trust in recognition of the millions of pounds Sterling they have raised for HIV and AIDS prevention, education, and services in honor of the late Princess of Wales. Our Mr. O'Connell participated in countless interviews and talk-shows to help introduce and promote the A.S.K. campaign (Active Service of Knowledge) across the United Kingdom.

As if the London experience weren't enough, Patrick and Jimmy flew to Edinburgh, Scotland where the Commonwealth Conference took place. This annual event is one of the last vestiges of the British Empire, where the heads of state of the 52 Members of the Commonwealth gather in a different capital city each year to discuss matters of common interest and concern. One of their greatest concerns was to launch a new program sponsored by the United Nations, called UNAIDS. President Nelson Mandela of South Africa endorsed the project and met with Patrick to be interviewed and photographed. One of the components of the program is called "Awake Beyond Awareness", which is a global peer education program. Patrick heads the International Arts board and was there to marshal awareness for youth, to respect and empower themselves creatively through art, and to build skills and self-esteem.

Patrick O'Connell's energy, creativity, generosity and wisdom are matched only by his great sense of humor and personal modesty. "I am lucky to be entrusted with the dreams of many", he said to me, "but when the history of AIDS is written, it will not be about the stars. It will be about individuals and groups like the Imperial Court who have changed the world".

Thank you, Patrick, you are a hero and an inspiration to all of us.

Dining In Drag The Silver Swan and a Golden Surprise

by Lady Carol and Baroness Babs

This German bistro was discovered by Countess Susan Vanderbilt last Labor Day Weekend during the Wigstock festivities. Almost lost among the storefronts and scaffolding on East 20th Street between Park Avenue South and Broadway, the Silver Swan serves traditional German and American food in a comfortable and subdued setting. It was a welcome change to our usual Italian or trendy Continental fare.

The Silver Swan features a complete "Queen-sized" dinner reasonably priced from \$17 - \$26, as well as an extensive a la carte menu. Appetizers include the traditional salad, herring in cream sauce and smoked peppered mackerel. Our favorite, however, was a light and smooth duck pate with truffles and a touch of Port wine. The chicken consommé with dumplings was good and somehow reminded both of us of "matzoh ball" soup! The entrees we sampled were excellent and our own conclusions were confirmed by a group of "sisters" at a nearby table. The Swedish Meatballs were served with a caper sauce, mashed potatoes and vegetable. The Kassler Rippelon, a center cut pork loin with mashed potatoes and sauerkraut, came highly recommended. Carol's Hungarian Goulash with spaetzle and a slightly sweet red cabbage was tender and tasty. However, the most popular dish was the Holstein Schnitzel, a lightly breaded and tender veal cutlet topped with a fried egg, anchovies and capers complimented with creamed spinach and roasted vegetables. The restaurant also sports, not surprisingly, an extensive selection of specialty imported beers. The end was met with a classic apple strudel, creamy cheesecake and Black Forest Cake.

On Saturday nights at 11 P.M., the rear dining area undergoes a transformation - tables are moved around, a modest music sound system is connected and the dance area is opened. The bar begins to fill up with Transgendered girls, and men and women who seek to meet them. Suddenly, the Silver Swan becomes the latest incarnation of "Karalyn's Oasis", the popular "friendly" Transgendered club that has moved all over Manhattan. For those who have had the pleasure of dining at the Silver Swan, the \$5.00 cover charge is waived. Consider it a little extra advantage for having dinner there: the Silver Advantage?

It is not unusual to find "T" sisters dining there on a Saturday evening. We were told that the owner, Renata, has always been friendly to the Transgender community. We certainly felt we were welcome...

SILVER SWAN, 41 East 20th Street, major credit cards accepted and reservations suggested, (212) 254-3611

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