

SCENE/HEARD

CELEBRATIONS 1/16 Nob Hill A double celebration for both Martin Luther King's birthday and the 18th anniversary of partners Robert Jones (one of DC's top bartenders) and Will Cook. Guests and friends shared food, fun, dancing, drag gospel (led by the amazing *Tullulah* in choir robes with backup from *Gucci* and *Jessica*), and Ms Gucci's Sunday night show. At 10 pm the champagne came out and everyone stopped to celebrate the anniversary. Gucci and Lady Blackwell headed straight for the champagne tray!

BIRTHDAYS: 1/22 and 1/23 Ziegfeld's - *Diva Ella Fitzgerald* and an intimate crowd of hundreds celebrated her fortieth birthday again this year. Ella discovered a special birthday treat in Jim from North Arlington whose lap she graced. Lucky Jim said all the right things and made all the right moves. Ella: "Do you want me in drag or out?" Jim: "What ever makes you happy?" Ella: Oooh. OK the show's cancelled. But remember, you gotta be trained to be a drag husband!" 1/23 Bachelor's Mill - It was a big affair at the Mill for *Teresa Beavers-Jackson* celebrating her Capricorn/Aquarius birthday, with performers galore and a table piled high with presents. A warm and friendly crowd was entertained by most of the Wednesday night cast plus artists from as far away as Chicago! 1/17 Omega - *JB*, Jordan's partner, got a little more than he bargained for when he celebrated his birthday at Diva Las Vegas at Omega last week. *JC Van Raine*, resplendent in red naugahyde, put him across her lap and administered one stroke of her whip across the birthday boy's bare cheeks. Whether JB's red-face afterwards was from pain, embarrassment, or lack of oxygen from being face down in JC's lap hasn't yet been explained. Do be careful about letting drag artists know when you have a birthday. It could be more than you expected. [JC will get payback on the 31st when she has her own birthday. She'll be getting to and leaving Omega by ambulance that night!

BUNDLE UP, IT'S WINTER In case you don't believe it's winter, all you have to do is sample a few dressing rooms around town. Or touch a drag queen's hands. Drafty insulation-challenged dressing areas don't make for healthy drag queens. Of course, some of minimal clothing around town could be considered an invitation to the flu. 'Honorary drag queen' *Pooh* of Bachelor's Mill keeps daring winter to try it in nearly clothing-optional outfits for her talented entertainments. And then, of course, there are *Vickii* and *Dominique* and *JC* with their let-the-wind-blow-through string and a wish costumes.

DJS, SOUND SYSTEMS, AND THE GHOST OF COBALT?! For a while at Chaos the other night it seemed that the spirits were in the dj booth as the CD player stuttered and stumbled. Perhaps *JC* started something when she called Jordan "Firestarter" a week ago and suggested she'd burned down Cobalt a year ago. Could the ghost of Cobalt be on the prowl sabotaging sound systems around town? Funny thing! It happened Sunday night to *Sophia Yamaguchi-Karrington* at *Mr P's* too. Coincidence?! Or just a need for routine maintenance. And, yes, it is louder and brighter at *Mr P's* these days. The *Drag Rag* is suffering Drag Show Deafness Syndrome after spending Thursday night in front of the newly loud speaker system. At least the brighter lights warmed up the house.

SAYING THE WONG THING! Miss Anita Wong introduce new Wong words to her admiring public when she spoke at length about *prostitute*, which bears of course not the slightest connection to *modelling*. Miss Wong was heard to declare that Diva Bloomingdale is NOT a *prostitute* but is instead a *geegolo*, a statement which perplexed both Ms Bloomingdale and the audience.

SELF ABUSE Capri Bloomingdale got into a deep discussion of self abuse with a fan who was singing the virtues of masturbation. Both Capri and the fan admitted it was cheaper, didn't require dinner and a movie, and you certainly didn't have to dress for it. Meanwhile, Diva Bloomingdale treated fans to the newest way of playing with yourself as she skipped rope with her own 12 foot long blonde braid at *Mr P's* one night. Too bad she couldn't find anyone to go double dutch with her.

STOLEN GOODS! The *Drag Rag* got a real compliment when *someone* stole it one Friday!! While the *Drag Rag* was inside covering the Miss Newcomer DC pageant at Ziegfeld's some deluded soul was outside breaking into the *Drag Ragnobile* to take a bag of peanuts, two panels of pink, green and black drapes and 300 copies of the latest issue. They must've had a lot of fish to wrap. Either that, or they're reading-challenged! If you know a pawnshop that'll take hot *Drag Rags*, please call so we can make some money off the rest of them!

LAP DANCING You just never know what's gonna happen. A couple of fans at Ziegfeld's got sample lap dances from *Vita* and *Diva Ella*. And there wasn't even an extra charge at the door. Miss Fitzgerald was heard to say "Oh, some of the things I have to do to make a living in a dress!"

VISITING DRAG ARTISTS!

Ms. Samantha Sole was in town recently for a few days and did a guest appearance at Mr. P's.

Ms Monet Dupre was in DC and did guest appearances at Chaos and at Ziegfeld's.

COSTUMES, COSTUMES *JC VanRaine* glittering in silver beads and chains and looking like the tinsel escaped from a Christmas tree: another walking lightning storm challenge! *Stevi* in Fruit Loops at Mr P's looking like the Breakfast of Drag Champions, All you need is milk. Are Fruit Loops on a drag queen redundant?! *Terrie Santana* in her blue evening gown and shawl looking the very elegant drag queen doing the slow mix of *I Will Survive*. *Capri Bloomingdale* has entered her metallic phase doing one splendid outfit entirely in copper (even her hair) and the next one entirely in gold. *Vita* was opulent in animal motifs, black lace-ups and curly blonde wig, which is a lot more than *Vickii Voxx* had on in her string body suit!

VALENTINES DAY WITH LADY TAWANNA
Bachelor's Mill February 13, 2000 9pm

Hot Tips! scandals! Rants! Raves! : call Drag Rag at (202) 999-0707 (c) Mark Meinke

THE DRAG RAG

NOTES FROM THE FRONT ROWS



Vol. 2

No. 2

Divas Talk

Ella: Welcome, Ladies and Gentlemen, it's another night of illusion.

Vita: Let me warn you; it's all duct tape and mirrors!

Tina Tuna Adams: You have to have a good time. You work with me; I work with you.

Ella: Duct tape to the dressing room!

JC: Here's Erica Alexander, Imelda Marcos's love child.

Xavier: That's Adrienne, of the House of Payless

JC: Here's our own personal yeast infection: warm, wet, and dark. *Dominique Foxx!*

Xavier: That's Regina Josette, Benny Hill in drag.

JC: Esmeralda, she's got this Priscilla Presley thing going.

JC: Here's Lauren Kyle, looking like a Caribbean Morticia Addams.

Xavier: Are you ready for the next entertainer? Good. So am I. Let's get this over with so we can go home and warm up!

Ella: I don't bite but I lick good!

Xavier: I don't bite, unless you pay me.

Jordan: She got a pretty dress on. I don't like her anymore.

JC: The only time I'm nice is when I'm really drunk and I'm saying 'I love you sister' and I got my vomit hanging out of my hair!

COURTNEY LOVELACE:
Oldest Living Drag Queen's Magnificent Adventure

Well, OK, maybe she didn't tell it all. The origins of her name, for instance, are not open to the public.

But even so, what more suitable name for a late-blooming drag queen from the Eastern Shore who only got into doing drag by being led into the paths of unrighteousness while attending drag bingo nights at the lamented Planet Fred!

"Courtney Lovelace", it just reeks of femininity and gentility, with maybe a barely contained undercurrent of outrageous frivolity. Sort of a Frederick's-of-Hollywood-catalogue-hidden-between-the-mattresses rural wholesomeness.

While she didn't get into what exactly lured her into this life of fun, frivolity, and femininity, Courtney did make it clear she had a lot of help from her friends. "The drag queens made me feel so welcome when I started out", she says.

In fact, though doing drag began as a Halloween and Planet Fred's kind of joke, it quickly got more serious. And, of course, Ms Lovelace had scouted the territory before joining the team: in her 14 years in DC she caught the shows at the Rogue, the OtherSide, and Rascales regularly.

Courtney didn't answer drag's

call until her day job career was well under way. Like *Sophia Yamaguchi-Karrington* and a few other artists in town, Courtney's venture into drag art and entertainment has been welcomed by fans and colleagues alike. Once again, the welcoming helpful communi-

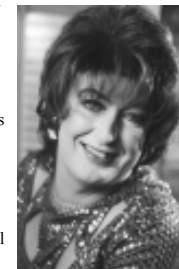
ty of sister drag queens puts the lie to the old stereotype of jealously bitchy arch drag queens.

Courtney has taught herself much of her drag art, in particular painting. But *Lala Mahar-riss*, her drag mother, and a strong support network of friends helped her fine tune her look and gave her bookloads of tips. To this day she depends on the support of her friends

Vita Opulence, *Blair Michaels*, *Michelle Michaels*, *Lauren Kyle*, *Terrie Santana*, *Xavier Bloomingdale*, and *Vickii Voxx*

It was, in fact, *Vita* who started the "oldest living drag queen" introduction (one that *Marilyn Monroe*, over at *Mr. P's* might dispute!).

Michelle, *Vita*, and *Blair* helped her get started at many of the clubs she has worked: *Remingtons'* *Ziegfeld's*, *Mr P's*, and *Elan*. At *Elan*, in fact, Courtney's career developed an echo of its origins: she hosted a Wednesday night drag bingo show that varied themes weekly. "Unfortunately, the



TRANSITION: Ms Mercedes Saville

a resident of the Richmond area but a frequent performer in the DC area passed away on January 2, 2000. She was a drag sister and friend of *Lacoutress Farrington* and *ortia Karrington*. The Miss Bachelor's Mill pageant saw several songs dedicated in her honor. Ms Saville performed at the old Brass Rail, the Bachelor's Mill, Ziegfeld's, and the Edge. She was Miss Queen of Hearts 1996 and Miss Black DC Universe 1997.

CLUB CHAOS: DIVERSITY DRAG A DAMN GOOD TIME!

17th Street's Success Story in Drag

Maybe it's third time lucky, or just hard work, and a willing-ness to take chances. Since Chaos took over the downstairs space at 17th and Q NW, the club has been filled with fans drawn to its diversity of entertainment! Opened June 5, 1998, it's a truly Gemini sort of club where entertainment, variety, and imagination are the themes.

Cabaret at Chaos, hosted by Jordan Taylor, celebrated its first year in mid-December. Packed audiences at the Saturday night show, Jymmye James's newer Sunday night country and western drag show, the scintillating wit of Ester Goldberg on Fridays and the new Tuesday night games hosted by Ester and Leona Hemsley give drag a presence four nights a week on the 17th St end of Dupont's Boystown.

Carlos and Wes, owners of Club Chaos, never planned to get into the club business, let alone hosting drag shows. While pursuing other careers they were customers of Trumpets, and later the Q Club, which occupied the space in succession. As Carlos recalls, "the Q Club's owners approached us about taking over the space. Wes came to me one day and said 'How would you like to take over the Q Club place?' and I said, 'Oh my God!'. I knew it would be a lot of work." It helps that Wes has a background in restaurant and bar management. Partners in life for over ten years, Carlos and Wes are now partners in business as well.

When it came time to pick a name, the partners went through piles of names and decided to just use the corporate name they had bought, Chaos venture Inc. The new name became

Named diverse bar by Weekly, an Carlos and of, Chaos does diverse in ground, sexual age, and just other stan-James's show, night presentations, and other events widen Chaos's audience still further.

"Our goal is to have a fun and safe place, where anyone is welcome", says Carlos, former Media Director at WTTG TV. "It took a long time and lot of work to get customer confidence back because of the troubles Trumpets and Q Club had in this space. But people have found us. We wanted an edgier place, not stuck up or snobby, friendly and open to new things."

Chaos itself is diverse, offering restaurant space, a long bar, and a dance floor, all of which are transformed regularly to suit the event of the night.



The Club is continually trying new things. "We believe in consistency, but we don't want to be boring or static. We need to keep people guessing and keep them coming back. When something works, OK; if not, let it go. And we're continually remodeling, putting money back into the club, and looking for improvements." Next on the agenda is a complete remodeling of the restaurant area.

As for drag, Carlos says, "drag just happened." He and Wes discovered phenomenal drag shows at bars in the South during the three years they lived in Tampa. "We became fanatics." They brought memories of those shows with them when they moved back to DC. Six months after opening the club, Jordan Taylor and JB came to them and asked to do a benefit for SMYAL at the club. Jordan and JB lined up the cast and made all the arrangements and the result was a crowded show at Chaos and some \$1500 for SMYAL. A month later Jordan, JB, Wes and Carlos agreed to try a weekly Saturday night show for a month. *Cabaret* started December 12th 1998 and is still running strong.

Along the way, Chaos has added regular employee drag nights where Chaos staff try life as drag kings or queens. In fact, it was the first employee drag night that got Wes started in drag and led to the gritty, sometimes sullen, sometimes slinky personality Leona Hemsley (who now does the Vanna White thing for Games Night). Chaos has also had a very successful drag king night and is planning to bring it back again on a monthly basis. The original drag king show packed the club to capacity.

Following the precedent established by the first SMYAL benefit, Chaos has become a center for fundraising in the community. In 1999, the club had nearly 30 different benefits and one a special *Drag Rag Award* for its efforts. As Carlos says, "We do fundraising to make sure we give back to the community." Chaos benefits have supported AIDS work, gay and Lesbian Hispanic activities, individual performers, pageant contestants, and a host of other community groups.

"We couldn't have done it without the wonderful support of Jordan and JB, Ester, Jymmye James, and all the staff at Chaos", say Carlos and Wes. "And, we have a fabulous reigning queen of Chaos in Gigi Couture, who has been a great ambassador for the club."

The mix of entertainment, the sense of purpose and inclusiveness, and the sheer fun of being at Chaos seem to guarantee a long and happy run for 17th Street's drag show-place.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Miss Newcomer DC 2000

Tina Tuna Adams

*First Runner-Up: Jordan Taylor
 Second Runner-Up: Bella Evangelista*

(c) Mark Meinke

COURTNEY continued

location was too far out for most people", she says, and, of course, Wednesday is one of the slower club nights in DC.

Still Courtney's career hasn't suffered. She appears regularly at Remington's Ziegfeld's, and most recently Omega (during Cookie Buffet's new Trailer Park nights there). True daughter of the Eastern Shore, Courtney's numbers are mostly country, especially Shania Twain and Tammy Wynette, but she prefers "fun songs, not romantic stuff, the offbeat not mainstream songs". She is still working on her repertoire, adding more fun songs and positive songs.

"I like people to have fun. My main object is to have fun myself. If we all have a good time, it's working. Luckily, I don't have to make a living from my drag performances."

Though she paints herself, and does her own hair, Miss Courtney is one of the sewing-challenged. But as she points out there are absolutely wonderful thrift stores around with all sorts of treasures in them. Catch her in performance and you can see she's not hurting in the wardrobe department.

Like many of DC's drag artists, Courtney prefers performing to hosting. Though she has taken the mike and hosted a show, she'd really be much happier making sure the audience had fun, and she did too, by letting the oldest living drag queen present her offbeat entertainment.

Awards Night



Drag Cares!
Recent Fundraisers

Chaos 1/15 \$250 for Diamond		Bachelors
		Mill 1/16 \$3100 for B Gill

Drag entertainers and clubs raise lots of money for people, organizations, and causes in the community.