

CULTURE

Some may wonder why such seemingly old-world entities as monarchies exist in the queer community—and have for decades now. (Portland's has been in existence for more than 35 years.)

But, unlike "real" royalty around the world, queer courts have a purpose—surely a more legitimate *raison d'être* than, say, the queen of England and her tiresome spawn.

Beyond the obvious camp/satire aspect, which coyly ridicules a historical symbol of heterosexual power, courts also have traditionally performed invaluable services in charitable fund raising, organizing and helping create a sense of community among queers.

Every October, we elect an Emperor and Empress to reign over all us wayward fags and dykes. This year on Oct. 25 during Coronation 2003: On the Town we say goodbye to Rose Emperor XXIX Josef A. Foxx and Rose Empress XLV Chloe Stone while three candidates vie for votes: Scoty DeVore Foxx and Mark Hollywood are running for Emperor, while Lotta Liquor is vying only with her own bad self for Empress. (The titles are clothing-based—any gender can compete for either crown.)

All their backgrounds and platforms reflect the community spirit that drives the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court.

Scoty has more than 15 years of experience with the court, working on campaigns, raising money and serving as Imperial Prince XXVI in 2000 and secretary of the board in 2002.

"We make good things happen," he says. "We raise money for charities that may otherwise struggle or not be able to continue to provide the services they do." His focus, if elected, would be to form stronger partnerships with groups like the Oregon Bears,



From left: Lotta Liquor is a shoo-in for Empress, while Mark Hollywood and Scoty DeVore Foxx compete for Emperor on Oct. 25 during Coronation 2003

Northwest Gender Alliance, the leather community and many others.

Like Scoty, Lotta Liquor brings some serious business chops to her Empressdom as owner and operator of the successful Commodore Grill and Lounge. She, too, feels the court's mission has made it a pivotal part of the community. "I see this as a position that will allow me to have fun and raise money for charities and scholarships," she says.

Lotta began attending local coronations "years ago" before she even knew what their purpose was. She traveled with monarchs Poison

Waters and ShelleY during their 2001-2002 reign to 25 cities, visiting other courts and networking. "I was encouraged to run for Debutante and, to my surprise, I won and was presented with Outstanding Court Member of the Year."

Hollywood is equally zealous when it comes to the court and the upcoming election. "I want to give my heart, soul, tears and sweat to help those in need within the GLBT community," he says. His background includes 13 years of continual involvement, with major titles including Mr. Gay Portland 20 and Mr. Gay Oregon 29.

Hollywood's message to the troops? "Vote for

someone who will work for you—one who understands the HIV-positive community, the homeless, and one who had lost almost everything due to being HIV-positive. Vote from the heart."

Of course, it can't all be serious with those tiaras and gowns and gender hijinks. Scoty, for instance, would like to "start a campaign of world domination.... Everybody will be required to have fun at least once a day, and if they don't, I'll have to make sure they get spanked."

Of course, everyone wants to know what they will wear at Coronation. Those budgets must get out of control. "What's a budget?" smirks Lotta. "I make some of my outfits, but I love to shop...sometimes a girl just has to have stuff."

Hollywood considers himself lucky to just have to have so many outfits. "Many events call for many different themes, and with my wardrobe, I can go from jeans and T-shirt to evening wear, i.e., tuxedo, suit, etc. Then for play, you should see me in a pair of leather chaps. Woo-hoo!"

Asked what the world (or at least the United States) would be like if it were run like the Rose Court, Scoty sees a world in which "everyone would have food, shelter and toys to play with!" (Adults and kids both, no doubt.)

For Lotta, the idea has definite appeal. "The world would be a much prettier place: a little glitter, a few rhinestones here and there never hurt—and no George W!"

CORONATION 2003: ON THE TOWN begins 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Crystal Ballroom, 1332 W. Burnside St. Tickets are \$35-\$38 from the box office or Ticketmaster.

Free-lance writer GARY MORRIS is Emperor AND Empress of his downtown Portland apartment.

eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout eatingout

eatingout
TREAT YOURSELF!



SUSHI CAFÉ K

GREAT TASTE WITH FAMILY TOUCH
FRIENDLY SERVICE

DINNER DAILY
LUNCH TUESDAY-FRIDAY
PARKING AVAILABLE

2015 NE BROADWAY
503.281.0815

Buckman Bistro

Casual neighborhood
bar & bistro



Morning Coffee 7am
Monday - Friday
Open 7 days 5pm
213 SE 12th
503-230-2381



Hand Crafted Beer!
Fine Food!

Oregon's only certified organic brewery

Monday: MONSTER MONDAY
Wednesday: BREWERS NIGHT

- Great Happy Hour food Menu daily
- Portland's only Brewery to win 2 Gold Medals World Beer Cup 2002
- Voted Portland's most kid friendly restaurant

1728 NE 40th Ave. 1/2 block North
of Sandy on 40th • 503.282.0622
www.laurelwoodbrewpub.com
11am - Midnight Daily

Cha! Cha! Cha!
Mexican Taqueria

1208 NW Glisan
(503) 221.2111

1986 SW 6th Ave
(503) 294.0677

2635 NE Broadway
(503) 288.1045

Coming Soon

1606 Bybee Blvd., Sellwood • (503) 232.0437

Open Seven Days A Week
10am to 10pm

Where fresh flavors,
healthful cooking and
ecological sustainability
come together.

THE PURPLE PARLOR
a mississippi avenue café

3560 N Mississippi (at Fremont)
7:30a-2:30p Tue-Fri, 8a-3p Sat-Sun
503-281-3560 www.purpleparlor.com