

Q Culture

Black and White Men Together convention set in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — From July 14-21, the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) will hold its twenty-first annual convention in New Orleans. Headlining the program are two internationally recognized black gay activists: Julius Powell, who has pioneered efforts to repeal anti-gay laws in Jamaica, and Vernal Scott, Britain's most visible black, gay HIV/AIDS activist. Also scheduled to appear is the double Lammy-nominated au-

thor Randy Boyd. Boyd has been hailed and criticized for his ground breaking novels that depict interracial gay love. The theme for the event, "2001: A Race Odyssey," signals the pre-eminent forum on race in the gay community. Paul Hawkins, a Pittsburgh-based activist known for his anti-racism workshops at prominent GLBT conferences, is serving as this year's NABWMT convention program organizer. According to Hawkins, "This year's NABWMT convention program is tightly woven around the issue of race, and in particular what race means to gay men. In all, we will be offering 15 workshops and other gatherings, all of which will bring the issue of race front and center in a meaningful way. If ever there will be a national convention in which gay men can enter into a constructive, soulful dialogue about the meaning of race in our lives, this convention is the one."

The National Association of Black and White Men Together, the country's oldest interracial gay men's organization, has been in existence since 1980. Currently the organization has more than 20 local chapters coast-to-coast, and membership that extends internationally. For more information about the NABWMT and its upcoming annual convention, visit the organization's web site at www.nabwmt.com.

Q-Notes wishes to extend its thanks to everyone who has supported Q-Notes for 15 years!



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the drag rag

by Miss Della
Q-Notes Staff

Welcome, admirers of drag, and those who do it as well. Here we are again to hash and rehash happenings at contests from across the country. Let's start with the last few prelims that have taken place right before Miss USofA begins next week. Chevelle Brooks has done a wonderful job as the title-holder, and I know we'll be seeing her again on a different stage sometime in the future. She's too talented and sweet not to punish in other systems. Maybe it will be at Miss USofA at Large in Winston-Salem this fall, maybe at Continental PLUS next spring, but I have a good feeling we haven't heard the last of her.

Anyway, the last ladies qualifying to compete at the big rodeo in Dallas include Miss Colorado Josephine O'Hara, Kim Crawford who won Show Me States, Jame Peery who won Southwest, Whitney Paige who won Tri-States, Miami's Erika Norell who captured the title of Venus in Houston, and Ashley Kruiz who is the new Miss West Virginia. While I never do public predictions anymore, let's see if your winner and runners-up don't come from this pool of gals — Whitney, Erika, Kourtney Van Wales, and Victoria West. Hold me accountable the next time you see me.

I spoke with Kourtney recently, and she tells me her calendar runneth over. She was planning a trip through NC, but her prelims are stomping her little pretty self. Two winners she ran by me to compete this fall at Miss Texas include the new Miss Houston Christina Ross, and Miss San Antonio, the lovely Zori Zannell who just appeared on Maury Povich with Erica Andrews, a former Miss USofA, who also hap-

pens to be doing make-up on the set of the Maury Show now during filming weeks.

Miss Kofi is making her rounds as Miss At-Large, and prelim winners for the big'uns include Miss Great Lakes Leslie Ryan, Devion Morney who won Show Me States, and Trechia St. James, the new Miss Southwest.

On the America scene, Charity Case is rolling it on out and having a cocktail, too, at prelims like Miss Missouri, where Ineda Cochtael won, Truly Fabu won Maryland, and Ginger Manchester and Barbie Grant will both represent Miss South. Miss Gay America returns to Dallas this year in mid-October.

Skipping down to Miami, I am reminded that the date for the Female Impersonator's Miss Florida pageant has been set for Monday, July 2 at the Tropigala Ball Room at the sickening Hilton Fontainebleau on Collins Avenue on the beach. Amy DeMilo will be giving it up, of course, and Danielle Hunter will return as a former with another crown on her head; that of Miss Continental. Also recently in Miami, Miss SC PLUS Lola Lush just won Miss Venus At Large, held at the O'Zone, a hot hot hot Latino bar in the northern part of town.

What a fabulous way to change subjects and mention prelim winners in that system — Asya Black won Miss Canada, Lisha Parris won Mid-South, and Armani won Toronto. I had the pleasure of judging Miss Georgia in Atlanta in early May, and had a wonderful time. Our Miss NC, Kirby Kolby and her entourage were there, and I got a chance to visit with performers Danielle Hunter, Necole Luv Dupree, Stasha Sanchez, Sasha Valentino, Lisha Parris (who gave up the title), and two of my all-time favorite entertainers, both former Continentals, Tommie Ross and Monica Munro. The winner of the evening was Martina Diamante and her runner-up was a new goddess for the worshipping, Maya Long Andrews. This little fishy baby doll took my breath in interview, and continually punished for the rest of the evening. A sweet transie who is way talented and has a wardrobe — GET OUT OF TOWN! This child will end up winning them all before it's over. Pay attention to this name — trust me. A reminder — Emerald Coast Continental takes place at Legends in Raleigh on Friday, July 20 — Danielle Hunter and Mimi Marks will bring you the illusion that starts all the confusion. Tommie Ross is supposed to be there, too — new kids bring your notebooks and learn something from a pro.

On the local scene, Jennifer St. James recently won Miss Spektrum in Fayetteville; her runners-up were Misty Bleu and Vanessa Cottrell. Miss Central NC America was won by Diana Prince; her RU was Chi Chi of Jacksonville. Miss Mecklenburg County America takes place on June 16 at Scorpio, and that's the only date I know by heart this second. My apologies in advance to all promoters. My junior high school sister Tajma Hall wants me to make sure everyone knows they're doing drag in Chapel Hill now at Gotham on Saturday nights. I hear the bartenders are sinfully gorgeous, please check it out! Shame on me for not mentioning that they are doing shows at Genesis in Charlotte on Thursday nights — Kerri Nichols (former Miss America and my drag mom) serves as Head Diva in charge. I almost forgot — Miss NC EOY is set for June 24th at Warehouse 29 in Greensboro. Go meet Miss EOY Roxie Hart from Oklahoma City and see a talented, sweet kid in action!

I'll close with bad news — not by my choosing, you understand. Seems like I'm losing a lot of sisters theses days, like Delilah Gray who was on the housecast of the wonderful Power Company in Durham years ago. Also, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I note the passing of a one-of-a-kind queen by the name of Miss Kitty, the original Club Queen of Charlotte. I have known that child since my first days of being out, and have been entertained on many occasions by her and the alter ego, Derrick Saunders. Kitty, never a pageant queen, but always a performer, actually won Miss Mid-Atlantic EOY back in 1996 at Mythos. Do you remember her first crown number? Man, I sure do. It was what made her a classic. Those who crave to be entertained mourn along with me. ▼



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