

Candie Camay Crowned



Candie Camay was crowned Queen of Greenville-Spartanburg Royal Court in a ceremony March 15 in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She will serve a one-year term as queen.

The Royal Court is new to South Carolina, having been there for only a year. In North Carolina the Royal Court has been present for about ten years, Candie said.

The Royal Court originated almost 20 years ago in San Francisco, according to Candie. Although it is often assumed that the Royal Court is simply a social group (like a fraternity, for example), the Royal

Court originated as a mechanism for raising funds for people who faced expensive illnesses, Candie said. It has maintained and expanded its philanthropic role, she added.

Candie outlined the Royal Court's goals, as she sees them: The main goal is to raise funds to be designated 1) to assist individuals within the gay/lesbian community who are afflicted with life-threatening illnesses which are emotionally or financially draining; 2) to promote, endorse and distribute safe-sex educational materials, etc; and 3) to ally with other gay/lesbian organizations to help promote projects, gay pride, and gay unity within our community.

Candie added that it is not possible for the Royal Court to carry any ill person long-term. They simply try to help get the person through the tough spots. In addition to financial help for illnesses, Candie envisions aiding with illness-prevention measures, especially AIDS prevention, because, as Candie points out, "an ounce of prevention is worth more than a ton of cure."

Queen Candie Camay's court will be crowned in April. She is now in the process of appointing them. There are two segments of the court: performers and committees. The court performers will

consist of some or all of the following: a king, a prince and princess, a duke and duchess, a marquis and marquise, a baron and baroness, a count and countess, lords and ladies, and other entertainers. There will be three Court committees. The outreach and screening committee works one-on-one with groups and individuals to assess how best use could be made of funds and to make recommendations. The financial and bookkeeping committee keeps records of funds raised and produces and posts financial statements. The education and gay/lesbian unity committee assesses the most effective ways of promoting and distributing safe-sex literature, condoms, etc., and assesses which gay/lesbian unity projects could be most practically achieved.

Candie stressed that she doesn't want the Royal Court to do just one kind of work. She said that they will be trying to set up a network of performers and committees to provide a consistent and coordinated approach. This will provide an ongoing network to work on projects. In the Greenville-Spartanburg area, this will be done from the ground up, as no court presently exists.

Candie and her Royal Court are seeking the cooperation of all the clubs in the area, AIDS Upstate, the MCC church, PGLA, the Actors' Guild and the whole community. She is in the process of contacting area groups.

Candie's duties go beyond those of

coordinating fundraising efforts. She will open and close every fundraiser. She anticipates that most fundraisers will be shows, but there can be a variety of types, e.g., dinners and T-shirt sales.

Candie, whose real name is Kisha Anderson, has her roots in Asheville. Born in Washington, D.C., to loving parents, Kisha's dad taught pastoral theology. She lived in a variety of cities during the school year, including New York City, Chicago, Tulsa, and Enid, OK. But summers were spent at the family home in Waynesville, and Kisha hated cities. A very athletic child, Kisha began judo at age 7 and received a junior brown belt at age 12. During junior high and high school Kisha became involved in social, peace, and ecology movements. During the riots in Chicago around the 1968 Democratic Convention, she worked with her father to bring food to the community centers in areas of Chicago where there was destruction. Kisha was opposed to the war in Vietnam. In those days she grew her hair long and became something of a hippie.

Currently Kisha is undergoing sexual reassignment surgery. She has had one of the three operations it involves. Even though biologically she is becoming a woman, Kisha is gay-identified, maintains gay/lesbian values, and will remain a part

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