

Leather Weekend 1996: New Mexico On Fire!

by Diva Marie

It's that time of year again, when the grass starts growing green again, and a young Mistress' fancy turns to her riding crop and the submissive at her feet.

Lucky for us here in the Land of Enchantment, spring also means the annual Mr. & Ms. New Mexico Leather Contest Weekend. This year's event will be held March 22-24, at *The Ranch Bar* in Albuquerque, and the theme is "New Mexico On Fire."

I heave a sigh as I remember my first year: Brand-spanking new (the pun is fully intended) to the public leather scene. Matt Lopez triumphed that year, 1994, as our first-ever Mr. New Mexico Leather.

Last year, Buddie LaRue became our second Mr. New Mexico Leather; he later went on to finish in 9th place at International Mr. Leather 1995.

We managed another major feat in 1995, as Willow was chosen as the first-ever Ms. New Mexico Leather. The points were so close, however, that all three women--that is Willow, Leslie Anderson, and myself--were chosen to run at International Ms. Leather. As if spurred on by Buddie's success at IML, all three of us placed in the top 10 at IMsL.

So, New Mexico, the eyes of a nation are upon thee. How can we top the past two years?

We're off to a very good start. First, we've invited many familiar faces back to New Mexico this year, including Jeff Tucker (IML 1994), Cindy Bookout (IMsL 1994), Mr. Marcus (of the Bay Area Reporter), Mark Frazier (male co-chair of the N.L.A.), and last year's tallymistress,



Shann Carr (left), Int'l Ms. Leather 1988, will be performing at "New Mexico on Fire;" and Cindy Bookout (right), Int'l Ms. Leather 1994, will return to New Mexico for the third straight year, this time to co-emcee.

Margo Carr.

Coming to New Mexico's contests for the first time are leatherwoman extraordinaire and scene mentor for over 20 years, Ms. Vi Johnson; the reigning International Mr. Fantasy, J.D. Bouchert; the current International Mr. Drummer, David Walker; and leatherwoman, IMsL 1988, and top-rated lesbian comedienne Shann Carr.

With a line-up like this, you'd think we couldn't possibly do better, but guess what? IMsL 1995 pat baillie and her partner, also Pat, recently relocated to Albuquerque, so I guess they'll be there, too!

Friday night's festivities will include a "Meet'n'Greet" between contestants and judges, as well as preliminary contest

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You're the Dad, It's Your Job

by Lee Lambert

There are those of us who take our roles to new and amazing heights. At times, I am one of them.

Being Daddy is part of my intrinsic makeup. Teaching, training, caring, loving and affection come very honestly to me. Giving these things up would be tantamount to giving up breathing: I might be able to do it for awhile, but I wouldn't care much for the results.

Since I don't seem able to escape the things that make this role right and proper for me, I just accept it for what it is and go on. I know other people who have the same problem, and occasionally, we'll get together to bitch about ourselves and our "kids" to one another. We're thinking about forming a support group: "Daddy's Anonymous."

There's a new commercial that's making me smile every time I see it these days: It features a guy talking about taking

We're thinking about forming a support group: "Daddy's Anonymous."

his family on vacation and the trials and tribulations thereof; he ends each short set of comments with "You're the Dad, it's your job." Recently, I discussed [this] with some of my aforementioned friends, [and] they agreed that their lives too have taken on more than a bit of this flavor.

I can picture the meetings in my minds eye: Eight or ten Daddies of various shapes and sizes sitting in orange plastic chairs in the basement of some bank building. Male Daddies, Dyke Daddies, [and] Femme Daddies all drinking stale coffee and chain smoking cigarettes. There's more than a little grey over the furrowed brows, and every now and then, one of us will involuntarily twitch. I can see the fatigue and worry lines in even the youngest face. We swap stories and advice with each other, knowing that it will change very little. Being [a] Daddy becomes an addiction.

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*"You're The Dad"**...continued from page 1*

A straight male Daddy known only as "Bill" sits on the opposite side of the circle from me and tells his story. "I'd just gotten to bed after a very long day, the phone rings, it's one of my 'kids' needing me to pick her up, the car has broken down on the worst stretch of the 110 Freeway, and she doesn't have a AAA card. Out of bed I get, into clothes, into the car, down the 110 at 2:15am looking for a little blue Mazda on the shoulder." I'm the Dad, it's my job. "There is no little blue Mazda on the shoulder of the 110. I search for two hours. She's managed a quickie repair and gotten it to run. I find this out the next morning around 10am. I praise her on her mechanical know-how." I'm the Dad, it's my job.

A Dyke Daddy three chairs down from me, "Linda," shares her tale of woe. "I don't think that they understand or respect me. I tell both of my boys that it's their life and they have to live it. All I can do is offer the best advice I have, and hope that it will work. I'm screwed any way I work it. If they take the advice and it fails to produce the desired results, I'm at fault. If they don't take the advice and it backfires on them, then I should have MADE them take the advice, and it's still my fault." She sighs loudly and lights another Camel off the butt of the last. "I just don't know how to let them know that I don't have all the answers, I mean, one of them is older than I am..." I'm the Dad, it's my job.

"Peter" tells a story of losing one of his "kids" through misunderstanding. "After awhile, we just couldn't communicate. It was like he had this rebellious streak and couldn't accept anything that I was saying. I just wanted to take him into my arms and let him know how much I cared, but he wouldn't let me. He gave back my presents and told me that I'd never cared about him. I saw him in a bar last week, and he asked my advice on this guy he was trying to pick up. I gave it." I'm the Dad, it's my job.

"Jason," perhaps the oldest in our group, speaks up next. "I paid for everything, put him through college and through law school. He lived in my house, ate my food, slept in my bed and was the most wonderful boy in the world. We took vacations together, had parties for each of his birthdays. Twelve years we lived as Daddy and boy. Now he's off chasing hot young boys at the bars, and almost never calls. He did call two weeks ago: He needed a loan. I gave him a check." I'm the

Dad, it's my job.

"Dana" is something with which I am not very familiar--a Femme Dyke Daddy. "I have one little girl and she's driving me nuts with the 'I wants.' I want this and I want that and Daddy can I please have that thing over there? I love the kid dearly, but her play age is somewhere around five, and it's spilling over into every area of our life. She wanted to go on a pony ride last week. The guy running it wouldn't let her on...after all, she's about 150 lbs. I couldn't blame him, but you should have seen the scene she caused. A thirty-two year old wailing like a child. I took her to the car and held her. What else could I have done?" I'm the Dad, it's my job.

It's my turn, and I take a sip of coffee to wet my throat. "So, I'm hanging at home

Do you wanna submit?

Details on page 6...

for the night and I get a call from one of my 'kids' [whom] I haven't seen for about 18 months. Actually, I haven't even heard from her in over a year. She tells me that her relationship with her lover has turned abusive, and that she needs some help getting herself and her two small children out of the situation." I'm the Dad, it's my job.

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Up & Coming Events

Local/Regional

National

AEL (Alternative Erotic Lifestyles) -- monthly playgroup. Next meetings March 9 & 23; (505) 345-6484

Mr. & Ms. New Mexico Leather-- March 22-24, Albuquerque, NM. See page 4 of this newsletter! Sandia Leather, (505) 275-1616

Spring Iniquity -- N.L.A.: Houston's Anniversary Five, Houston, TX, April 12-14. N.L.A.:H, (713) 527-9666

Texas Leather Pride--May 3-5, Austin, TX. N.L.A.:Austin, (512) 370-4713

(If anyone out there knows about events in Arizona & Nevada, please write us!)

Leatherfest VIII---March 8-10, San Diego, CA. Contact Club X, (800) 598-1859

International Mr. Leather--May 24-27, Chicago, IL. The new Mr. New Mexico Leather will compete! Call (800) 545-6753 for details

International Ms. Leather--July 18-21, Philadelphia, PA. Support our new Ms. New Mexico Leather by attending! Bare Images Productions, (402) 451-7987

Living in Leather XI--October 3-7, Portland, OR. Details TBA

Leatherfest L.A.--November, Los Angeles, CA. Details TBA

Do you have an event you would like to have listed? Mail us the details, including event name, date(s), where, and who to contact. Send it to the address on the back of this newsletter. Upcoming deadlines are April 15 and June 15, 1996. (We reserve the right to edit due to space limitations.)

Passages -- New Mexico Loses One Of Her Best



Impersonator, Dancer, Make-up Artist, Costume Designer, & Emcee

- Best New Mexico Entertainer (1987)
- Best Professional Impersonator (1988)
- Miss NMGRA (New Mexico Gay Rodeo Association) (1989-90)
- Miss IGRA (International Gay Rodeo Association) 2nd Runner-Up (1990-91)
- Miss Entrepreneur (1992)

Helped to raise over \$1100 toward the travel fund for the three Ms. New Mexico Leather finalists to travel to Int'l Ms. Leather in 1995.

I clearly remember the first time I met C.J. Diamond. I quickly became a regular "C.J. Groupie," and attended all his performances.

Soon thereafter, I met Christopher Herrera, which was an equally eventful experience. I fell in love with both of them on so many levels. Incredibly, they were both one human being who left a lifelong impression upon me.

On a personal level, Christopher didn't teach me so much as he faillessly reminded me. When I felt lost, he reminded me that I was a valuable member of my community. He reminded me of how important I was to him, and to my world. Christopher reminded me that I belonged.

When I lost hope in conquering my own illness, Christopher reminded me that I was a wealth of strength, that I had an appreciated sense of humor.

When I felt unwomanly, unwanted or unattractive, Christopher always re-

minded me that I was, indeed, a beautiful woman.

When I felt hopeless and exhausted, Christopher reminded me that my enthusiasm, my passion for living beyond my physical obstacles, would carry me above my imagined defeat.

Christopher always sought my perceptions, my insights, and my feelings. I shared with him, and sought his contributions in virtually everything I did.

Christopher didn't always agree with my choices, and when he didn't, he told be about it. But he loved me unconditionally.

Now, when I miss Christopher, he reminds me of why I'm here. He reminds me of how many great memories I have of him. He reminds me of what a lucky woman I am.

And I am.

*Leslie J. Anderson
February, 1996*



Leslie (as "Little Reba") and Christopher P. Herrera



Christopher as C.J. Diamond

Introducing a leather event of cosmic proportion and universal significance:

*The 1996 Mr. & Ms. New Mexico Leather Contest
"New Mexico On Fire"*

Friday, March twenty-second through Sunday, March twenty-fourth, 1996

The Ranch Bar

8900 Central S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Friday's reception immediately followed by a weekend of workshops, demonstrations,
entertainment, contestant speeches & fantasies, and Sunday brunch.*

*R.S.V.P. Sandia Leathermen & Sandia Leatherwomen
care of The Ranch, (505) 275-1616*

Weekend packages still available.

If you live in New Mexico and are interested in being a contestant, please call us.

"You're the Dad"

...continued from page 2

"So I end up driving across town with a friend of mine, and serving the restraining order." I'm the Dad, it's my job. "It had to be done that night. Of course, it took the 'kid' a week to come get the receipt."

Being Daddy is not to be taken lightly. It's not about SM, it's about loving and caring for someone in a way that is largely unconditional. The type of love that gets you out of bed at 2am, the type of love that doesn't stop when the sexual part of the relationship is over. Sometimes, there was never a sexual relationship at all.

Being Daddy is about respect and responsibility, about making the best possible decisions in respect to the people who count on you. You may not always be right on, but trying should count for a lot.

Being Daddy is a form and expression of the soul.

Even though I can imagine this support group with all the bitching and all the [examples] of getting screwed over and used, being Daddy is part of a person more than any other role I've ever found. Being Daddy has given me some of the best highs in my

life, as well as some of the worst lows. Being Daddy is silly sacred, wearing, and overpowering. Most of us couldn't give it up if we tried.

After all, we're the Dads; it's our job.

This article was reprinted with permission of the author (because we know what happens if we don't ask for Daddy's permission!).

Daddy Lee Lambert regularly writes for the Leather Journal, among other scene and non-scene publications. Lee also has plans to attend the New Mexico leather contests in March, as if you needed another fantastic reason to join us that weekend.

**Food for Thought: The
AIDS Resource Library is
now open @ E.M.C.C.,
Dallas & Copper N.E.
Check It Out!**



**Shann
Carr!**

**From San Francisco,
Shann may look like the girl
next door, but she wants you
to know she also *fucks* the
girl next door!**

**Producer of the gay TV comedy
series "Out For Laughs,"
Shann has been doing
stand-up for over 10 years.**

One night in Albuquerque:

**Sunday, March 24
Legends West**



"New Mexico On Fire"

...continued from page 1

events, including the Jock Strap and Image competitions.

Saturday, the contestants will go through a pre-judging process, including the initial interview. Meanwhile, workshops, demos, and seminars will be presented by Sandia Leather members, as well as some of our out-of-town guests.

Saturday afternoon will be spent putting together the best show in the Duke City: The contestant fantasies! The two new titleholders will also be crowned on Saturday night, so don't miss it.

Sunday will feature a brunch with Mr. & Ms. New Mexico Leather 1996, the judges, and the people who make this thing happen, that is the Sandia Leathermen and Leatherwomen.

A special treat: Sunday night, Ms. Shann Carr (pictured on page 1) will be the featured performer at *Legends West*. Don't miss our favorite comedienne in this special Southwest performance.

In case that's not enough for you, leather vendors will be set up at *The Ranch* all weekend long. Looking for that special

toy, leather vest, cockring, or one-of-a-kind gift? Check out what C.J.'s Leathers, Leather by Boots, Lambda Gear, and TMTC (among others) have to offer.

Weekend packages are available for a limited time. For just \$25.00, you can get a reserved floor seat (see what the judges see!), an event t-shirt (exhibit your pride in our leather community *after* the con-

test!), commemorative pin (for that bar vest you intended to buy anyway!), an official program (surely a collector's item!), and entry to both nights (a double value!) *plus* the Sunday Brunch (free food!)

So, if you only attend one local leather event a year, this is the one! We'd love to have ya...er...see ya there!

--- DM



Also returning this year will be (from left to right): Mr. Marcus of the Bay Area Reporter; Mark Frazier, the new male co-chair of the National Leather Association; and Jeff Tucker, Int'l Mr. Leather 1994.

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So, you wanna submit.

This is the space where we showcase *your* talent. So send us that poem about spanking the girl next door, a picture or drawing of your favorite boy all bound up (smile!), or a congrats note (as below) for a leather colleague. Cartoons, favorite quotes-- we don't ask for copyright, we'll print your name (or not, if you request it) and nothing is taboo here.

**This is the place
to do it. NOW.**

*Congratulations
Are In Order*

-- To *all* the winners of the Pantheon of Leather awards in February. Special congratulations to Sarah Humble, who won Woman of the Year, and to Cindy Bookout, who won the Leather Journal's Reader's Choice prize.

The Vampire's Kiss

That demon in Woman's guise
Flowed in through a fog of passion
To bestow upon me
A kiss

A kiss
That made the sun my enemy--
And the moon my lover

Ashes to ashes
I heard them say
Wanting to cry out

But no breath came

So I dream my dreamless sleep
Waiting for my lover to rise
To go forth on wings of night
To bestow my kiss
On another

--- Wolf

IMAGE ISN'T EVERYTHING.

But then again, it doesn't hurt.

Let's face it: your business can't succeed based entirely on the way it looks. But the image your business projects can attract customers or drive them away. It can give you the edge you need to beat the competition, or just blend you in with the crowd.



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Dear Dive-Ah & Leslie,

First of all, congratulations on the NewsLeather. You are doing a great job with it. It's important that locals and the community at large are kept informed of the 'goings on' of the leather world. In my opinion, it's another form of outreach and education. Keep up the good work!

Next month, I will once again have the pleasure of visiting your fair city for the third annual New Mexico Leather Weekend. I'm looking forward to spending time with the contestants as this year I will be an emcee along with my dear friend Jeff Tucker. We already have a few surprises in the works for the audience. Trust me, you won't want to miss the show.

Last year's contest produced some impressive folks. The male winner (Buddy) and the three female placers (Diva Marie, Leslie, & Willow) all made the cuts at their respective international contests. Well done, New Mexico. Now let's see what you can follow it up with. Oh yeah, the whole country is watching you.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of my friends and meeting new ones (which seems very easy in Albuquerque).

See you March 22nd. Until then, play hard but play safe!!!

Cindy Bookout
IMsL 1994



Hey Cindy, thanks for the great letter...and the great compliments, one being taking the time to write! We sure are looking forward to seeing you later this month. If anyone out there wants to know why Cindy calls me "Dive-Ah," ask her while she's here! (See, there's more than one way to get ya'll to come out for New Mexico's gala leather weekend!) <big shit-eating grin here>

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