

a+e WINTER IS A DRAG BALL

Gossip, Gossip, Gossip!

Drag Queen Diva Tori Nado Spins her own story of Winter is a Drag Ball 2006

Tori: "Call a cab, and make sure it's a van!"
 Friend: "What do you need a *van* for?"
 Tori: "My hair's too big for a regular cab!"

BY TORI NADO

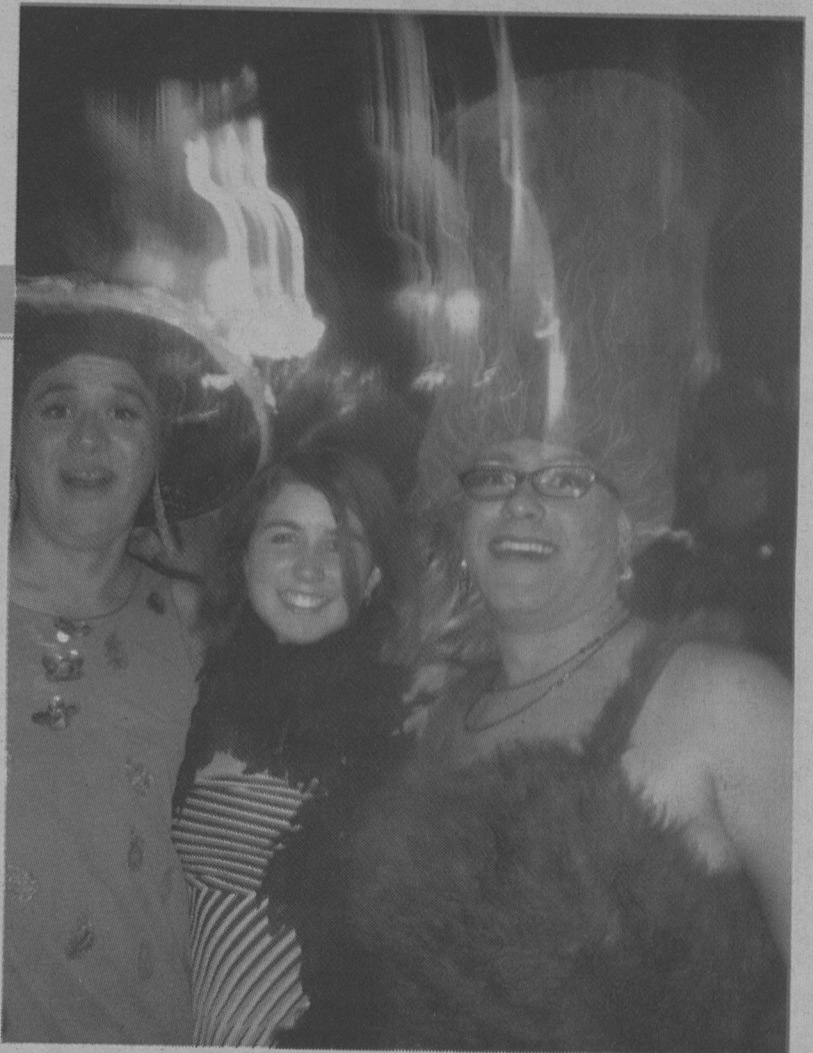
The above is not gossip – it's the damn truth. My hair was way too big, but it certainly made an impression when I attended the 11th Annual Winter is a Drag Ball at Higher Ground. Most people (Donald Trump) talk about location, location, location. Well, on February 11, 2006 that cliché held true. My **Bad Weather Girl** entourage (Val Kano, Sue Nami & Dawn Pour) and I blew into both ballrooms with such a force of nature that the H.G. security nearly called FEMA.

To start things off, **The House of LeMay** played hostesses to over 800 wonderfully, outlandish attendees on that frigid (see: Anne Coulter), Saturday evening. Amber, Marguerite, Lucy Belle, and Liza (not of the Minelli variety) not only hosted the evening, but also hob-knobbed, sang, danced and coordinated the entire Ball — and that takes balls. At the start

of the evening, The LeMay's performed their trailer-park-inspired cabaret act in the Showcase Lounge with their talented back up band **The Decoys**.

Meanwhile, in the Ballroom, punk-rock locals **The Dirty Blondes** gave a whiskey-in-

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PHOTOGRAPHERS: DON EGGERT [DE], ADAM COOPER WOOD [ACW], JOSH LUNETTA [JL]

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Tori Nado [DE]; "Express Yourself" Madonna [DE]; Dawn Pour, the Jo-Ann Fabrics lady, Val Cano [DE]; Tori (again), Lucy Belle LeMay [DE]; The Dirty Blondes (Bobbi, El Jefe, Reverend) [ACW]; fabulous drag performer [DE], Nathan "Biba" Jarvis of Phantasmagoria [ACW].