GAYITY

LOGIC PROBLEM: Fashion Crimes and Misdemeanors

It may be the center of our universe, but Vermont is not the only place that holds an annual drag ball.

The Chrissy Coalition — a group of fundamentalist sitcom watchers who believe that Three's Company's original blonde will return one day to redeem us all — holds a similar event each year.

We sent an intrepid reporter to cover this year's ball. Unfortunately, the assignment required him to spend the evening in the presence of the group's leaders, the Fundie Five. As such, he suffered a breakdown quite early in the evening.

His jumbled notes on the group's dresses, handbags and accessories follow. Use them and the chart provided to help us figure out what each man wore and carried during the evening. (Look below the chart for usage instructions.)

1. Jerri Faldown almost dropped his Gucci bag when he realized his colleagues were sporting Teletubby-esque fashions. He was only slightly comforted to note that at least the purple velvet dress and funky red vinyl handbag were being modelled by two different people.

2. The man in the slinky red satin frock — which had a side slit that revealed an ungodly amount of leg — arrived with a man who immediately checked his shawl.

3. At one point, Trench Lotsa saw the three men wearing the black garter, the shimmering black sheath and the beaded shoulder bag lined up for the powder room. He and the man in the white sequined off-the-shoulder number decided to stay on the dance floor for another song to wait for the line to dwindle.

4. Patti Buckup bought the first round of drinks for both the man with the black leather clutch and the man without a purse (who carried his cash in his bodice). Shortly thereafter, the man with the shawl joined the three of them for a second round.

5. Stormy Thursday spent five minutes telling the man in the white sequined dress how wonderful it looked. Then he spent ten minutes telling the men in pink taffeta and purple velvet that the white dress looked terrible with the stiletto heels.

6. A roving photographer captured the five friends — RuePat Robyerson, the man in red satin, the two wearing the tiara and pearls and the man in the sheath — on film.

7. After a few drinks, the man wearing the garter started a conga line. The man in the purple dress and his friend in pearls joined in. Mortified, Jerri slipped outside to avoid it. There he found his friend with the red vinyl handbag, poking through it for cigarettes and muttering about the DJ.

8. Shortly thereafter, Jerri, the man in the stilettos and the man in red satin set aside their purses — none of which were the beaded bag — to demonstrate "YMCA" for Trench, who never could keep the moves straight. The man in pearls snickered from a distance.

		DRESS					BAG					ACCESSORY				
		black sheath	pink taffeta	purple velvet	red satin	white sequined	black clutch	Gucci bag	no purse	red vinyl	beaded bag	black garter	pearls	rhin. tiara	shawl	stiletto heels
NAME	Patti Buckup							x								
	Jerri Faldown						x	O	x	x	x					
	Trench Lotsa							x								
	RuePat Robyerson							x								
	Stormy Thursday							x								
BAG	black garter															
	pearls															
	rhinestone tiara															
	shawl															
	stiletto heels															
ACCESSORY	black clutch															
	Gucci bag															
	no purse															
	red vinyl															
	beaded bag															

HOW TO USE THE CHART

Use the process of elimination to figure out who is — and isn't — wearing what. As you read the clues, fill in Xs and Os to keep track of the information. (For example, the first few words of the first clue tell you that Jerri Faldown is carrying the Gucci bag. We've filled in that information on the chart to start you.)

All the information you need to is in the clues, but you'll need to make some of the connections yourself. It's a puzzle, after all.

Answers: PATTI BUCKUP wore pink taffeta with the beaded white shoulder bag and pearls. JERRI FALDOWN wore the shimmering black sheath, carried a Gucci bag and checked his shawl at the door. TRENCH LOTSA wore the purple velvet gown, carried no purse and wore the rhinestone tiara. RUEPAT ROBYERSON wore the white sequined off-the-shoulder number with the funky red vinyl handbag and stiletto heels.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel