

# Vivant



Wendy Poche and king Eddie Boettner



Ralph Whalen and Emery Clark



Sybil Morial, John Bullard, Sydney Besthoff III (right)



Queen Sandra Blair



Mignon Faget



Thelma Toole



Marjorie Davis, Dr. Russell Albright

## Krewe of Clones puts a Pulitzer on parade

By NELL NOLAN  
Social columnist

Clones encounters of the Ignatius Reilly kind put a Pulitzer on parade.

The late John Kennedy Toole's "A Confederacy of Dunces" was captured forever in Carnival lore by the Contemporary Art Center's Krewe of Clones who took to the streets last Saturday night and experienced a spate of socializing in between.

Round one was a chi-chi cocktail party in swank French Quarter digs with Dr. Russell Albright and Michael Myers cloned for the occasion as hosts. The place was packed with party goers turning up for the CAC camaraderie and the chance to eye and awe the pad. More Clones encounters.

Turning heads was Clones royalty, queen (for the fourth year; "It gets to be a profession after a while") Sandra Blair as the "Dunces" Darlene a.k.a.



### Social Scene

Harlett O'Hara. One cocktail Clone wondered if she had also starred in the recent Le Petit production of "Cleavage."

King for a night was Ed Boettner Jr., who publishes "News on Wheels" and who made some — news, that is — on and off of wheels that day. His majesty Ed was also instrumental in copping the cars for the krewe to transform into the works of art, the model "art cars" which owed their genesis to Emery Clark. Emery's new

looks owed their genesis to a blond wig. Is it true blond Clones have more fun?

Denise Vallon got the dubbing as krewe captain and shepherded the vehicular flock along with hubby Louis. Funding the fun, acknowledged Denise, was the National Endowment of the Arts. Fueling it were various civic and culture minded groups. Fooling it was the Clone credo.

Limelighted at the Albright/Myers soiree was a quintet of feminine movers and shakers in the world of the arts, the "Sweet Arts": Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, escorted by Philip Carter; Marjorie Davis, escorted by Roger Green; Marion Andrus McCollam, escorted by Sheriff Charles Foti; Sybil Morial and John Bullard, and Thelma Toole — mother of "Dunces" author John — with John Pope. Red was the look for all the mavens except Thelma, who chose a gold dress and topped it with a *chapeau* confection.

She also manifested a spirit of largesse, distributing gifts to choice chums. They were striped pillowcases in MB bags, which went to one gent with the admonition, "No pillow talk, my dear."

(However some of her *sotto voce* chatter was about theatrical director Lew Bogdan, who plies his trade in France, where he dwells, and in Germany, where he makes his marks, who's hankering after the stage rights for "A Confederacy of Dunces." He says the Pulitzer Prize would make a wonderful evening in the theater; Thelma feels it would make a wonderful musical. She wants to do the composing.)

Each Sweet Art was ceremoniously presented with a bouquet consisting of fabric roses and hearts and her photo encircled as a valentine. Lauding the

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# CAC captures 'A Confederacy of Clones'

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ladies was the CAC prexy, Sharon Litwin, who accredited their support to the survival of local arts. Clones kudos.

Among the folks who flocked to cocktail were Sydney Besthoff with a comely cortege: wife Walda; her ballet buddy, Judith Holton; and several daughters, including Jane, the youngest. Then there were Harold and Matilda Stream; Dawn Dedeaux, in a fabulously bizarre Mike Stark feathered mask; Sanda Freeman in Schia-

parelli pink. Benjamin Morrison, George Dureau (in person and in paint — one of his large works hung on the third floor), and the Tom Tews.

Also spotted were most of the Sweet Arts of '81, including Leah Chase, looking fabulous in a white feathered cloche; Sunny Norman, wearing a large blue Mike Stark crab at her neck, and whose fur link was lynx; Muriel Bultman Francis, escorted by Bob Cahlman, who did the honors last year; Margie Stich, and Ruth Ann Menutis.

More rounds were made by Bill Fagaly; Marti Shambra (it was election night and he was on the ballot; but he didn't want to be tied to the tube), Dr. Martin Litwin, Walter Davis, Lynn Bowker (Philip Carter's Mrs. and the mother of baby Alexander); Gerald Andrus, Sweet Art Marion's dad, and a former Rex; Jackie and Jerry Derks, Betty Moran, the CAC's Marileen Maher and Meg Bradley (not to be confused with Meg, Mrs. Fred Bradley, the sometimes model), and Marilee and Tom Snedeker.

Mignon Faget put the creative noggin to work and gave Jackson Square a costume nod. She was Gen. Andrew Jackson, complete with a pigeon perched on her head, and her daughter, Jacqueline Humphries, was a pastel portrait, outfitted in an outlandish wig, a miniskirt and exaggerated *maquillage*. The "picture" was perfect when she produced the frame for her kewpie doll head. Others in the Jackson group were dressed as the picket fence.

Patricia Chandler and Jack Batho added a bilingual touch as did Dr. Sid and Yasho Bhansali. The Lloyd Flatts and Diane Dees, sporting a flapper headband, were others milling from beautiful room to room. Bob Tannen and Jeanne Nathan and Johann and Bethany Bultman followed suit.

Then came the limos which whisked the Sweet Arts and the Clone Co. to the CAC for convertible ensconement. From the party to the parade and then back again to a party atmosphere.

The lobby of the ITM Building doubled as a party site for the inner Clones circle, which was changing in number and character. The king's father, Ed

Boettner, did some gladhanding and Dr. Art and Merce Silverman warmed up theirs — hands, that is — after the wintry jaunt. Clones in from the cold. Most of the folks headed to the refreshments table where Dr. Nut and champagne were paired as unlikely libations. Ever heard of a Dr. Nut hang-over?

While approximately 2,800 folks packed the S.S. President to get on down to the sounds of the Neville Brothers and Clifton Chenier, the royal Clones hopped back into the comfy limos — or boarded the streetcar — to get on down to the Prytania Street Gumbo Shop. Dinner was served in the Clones Room.

Each Sweet Art had her place designated with balloons, and playing cards doubled as placecards. John Pope was the King of Spades.

Lindy started the toasts and then came the supping — gumbo, natch!; shrimp Creole, salad and bread pudding — and the sipping. One escort swilled a whole glass of Stolichnaya. Vodkas away!

Counted in the company this time were Luba and Leonard Glade; Emery Clark's momma dressed like "Confederacy" character Santa Battaglia, and Ruth Monteleone. Also, a handful of touristy types were finishing their meal when the Clones made their entrance. Wait 'til Peoria hears this tale.

The only complaint was about the cold weather during the parade route. But as one guest yucked, "If it's that way next year, the Sweet Arts can send out their Clones."



ALSO taking part in the Krewe of Clones Carnival festivities were krewe captain Denise Vallon and her husband, Louis.

Photos by Emmet Blum and Greg Greer



Lindy Boggs



Marion Andrus McCollam