

Party lines: people, places and politics

Models strut at T.H.E. bash



Photographs by James R. Brantley/The Washington Times

Local supermodel Yun (left) swanned in to T.H.E. Artist Agency's 21st anniversary party Saturday night at Muleh, where owner Christopher Reiter (below left) helped host the party with agency founder and owner Lynda Erkiletian. Models Tony Reddick (bottom left) Ty Bell and Aaron Ransom made the scene in individually altered T-shirts.

The wag who coined the phrase "Washington is Hollywood for ugly people" should have been at Muleh on Saturday night when 100 or more of the metropolitan area's top models turned out for T.H.E. Artist Agency's 21st anniversary bash.

Owner **Lynda Erkiletian** spared no expense for the fete, starting with the 750 T-shirt invites she messengered to prospective guests along with the request they be creatively transformed to gain admittance at the door.

And transformed they were — beaded, painted, shrunk, scissored and slashed for the occasion by the models, stylists, photographers and other creative types prancing and preening their way through the uber-trendy shop owned by **Christopher Reiter**, Ms. Erkiletian's significant other.

There were roving



spotlights out front, balloons and photographers at the door and an army of cute waiters tending the bars and buffets as New York's Groove Collection — described as a cross between Earth, Wind and Fire and the Gypsy Kings

— kept guests romping on the dance floor until 2 a.m.

"This is the hottest of the hot in D.C. — people who are fashion forward," said tall slinky Yun after making a flash poppingly fabulous entrance in a white nylon wig, low rise jeans and off-the-shoulder pearl accented T. After 13 years in the business, Yun (like Iman, one name only please), now 26, wouldn't have missed this catwalk for a sackful of deeply discounted Jimmy Choos. "They take care of the girls. It's not like work," she said of her corporate host. "It's more like hanging out with your family."

— Kevin Chaffee



Georgetown celebra

Even in a wheelchair, **Gore Vidal** commanded the room Friday night at a party in his honor at Gore Dean, the fashionable Georgetown antiques and household furnishings emporium, to celebrate the publication of his latest memoir, "Point to Point Navigation." Or maybe it was because of the chair. He was the stationary element — a virtual rock star — at the center of an elegant cocktail gathering distinguished by the number of local literati and glitterati waiting in line to pay their respects.

And, of course, trade a few bon mots. The 81-year-old author's reputation as a worldly savant and raconteur hasn't diminished with age. He may be frail physically, but his verbal talons still are sharp. A legion of artistic, political and social notables traded stories and memories from the years he spent in Washington — growing up at Merrywood in McLean, once also home to Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis — before residing in upstate New York, Italy's Ravello, and now Los Angeles.

Wyatt Dickerson, former owner of Merrywood, was on hand to talk about the old homestead, as was former Motion Picture Association of America chief **Jack Valenti**, and former Georgetown bookshop owner **Marcia McGhee Carter**, who had campaigned for Mr. Vidal in 1960 when he ran for Congress from New York's Dutchess County. **Polly Kraft** and **Claire Shipman** reminisced



Photographs by James R. Brantley/The Washington Times

Gore Vidal (above center) was the guest of honor at a Georgetown party hosted by his half-sister Nina Gore Auchincloss Straight (right) and cousin, Deborah Gore Dean (left) at the latter's Georgetown shop. Guests included Bill Cohen (top, from left), Vicki Bagley, Janet Langhart Cohen, Chris Matthews and Kathleen Matthews.

about visiting Ravello; **Diana McLellan** gossiped about the wily Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich. "I knew he had read my book about them," she said. Novelist and former National Endowment for the Humanities official **Thomas Mallon**