

Social scene/Lifestyle

Mr. Blackwell's remarks entertain woman's club

Mr. Blackwell's recently announced Worst Dressed List did not have any local women on it and probably never will.

"Fashion is bull," Blackwell said at a fund-raiser for the Palm Desert Woman's Club at the Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage. "The people in this area are so nice. They are nicer than their clothes. I love the desert; I'm looking for a house here."

The luncheon opened with piano music by Rhonda Bogart, songs by Marie Shaw Wolpert, and a duet by Bogart and V.J. Hume with Tad Sisler on piano.

Club president Rita Silver and event Chairwoman Thaire Dean thanked committee members, including Jane Carter, Monna Livingston, Kay Culliton, Fonda Beucus and Jean Burns (who served on just about every committee).

Blackwell's performance was a mixed montage of humor, sentiment, insults, anecdotes, singing, motivational urgings and references to his book, "From Rags to Bitches," all performed over musical numbers prearranged with Sisler (who did a stellar job of keeping up with Blackwell's changing moods).

His comments included:

■ **Worst Dressed List:** "I put the Spice Girls on this year. I said they are the only spices in the world who have no taste — isn't that a great line?"

■ **Those who speculate, "Is he or isn't he?":** "Forget it honey, I am — I definitely am — Jewish." Then he added, "If I ever decided to go straight I would marry V.J. Hume."

■ **His age:** "I was in Judy Garland's first film in 1937. Some days I wake up in the morning and feel like Judy Garland."

The nearly 400 ladies (and a few men) seemed to love him and were not offended by the off-color stories or random insults.

The program ended with a huge opportunity ticket drawing which helps the club support a dozen local charities, including Martha's Kitchen and Baby, Think It Over dolls. For membership information: 568-0059.

FASHIONS, FUR AND FEATHERS:

A very different kind of fashion show was held by Animal Samaritans SPCA: the models were accompanied by a dog, cat, puppy, kitten or bird.

The animals were well behaved but still managed to upstage the models, fashions, guests and even mistress of ceremonies Kate Porter, host of the "Animal Hour" on KGAM radio, 1450 AM.

Among the heart-stealers were Miss Shadow, an 11-year-old Pomeranian who looks like a miniature black bear; Dusty, a young yellow lab being trained to be a guide dog; and Rambo, a cockatiel whose favorite self-taught phrase is, "Kitty be good."



Photos by Betty Francis/Special to The Desert Sun

Fashion conscious: Joining Mr. Blackwell at the Palm Desert Woman's Club luncheon are event Chairwoman Thaire Dean (left) and club president Rita Silver.



Doggone cute: Those attending the Animal Samaritans SPCA clothing and animal fashion show included (from left) Diane Matzner, Miss Shadow, Teri Webb and Kurt Swanson.



BETTY FRANCIS

The lady who created the enchanting affair was Diane Matzner, owner of LaMariposa, a clothing and gift shop in the Desert Fashion Plaza in Palm Springs.

The eight LaMariposa outfits modeled were amazingly versatile. They could go traveling, cocktail, lunching or dining in any season, but the ultimate versatility was in their inventive one-size-fits-all designs that could see us through our before, during and after seasonal weight gains!

Models included Jean Solch, Patty Craine, Teri Webb, Nicole Ervin, Pat Herman, Shelley Stevens and Laurie Aylain.

Guests included Dee (Mrs. Joseph) Wambaugh, Dr. Bud Craine, Lilli Mandellch, Anne Barry and board members Angela Moritz, Barbara Flanagan and Mike Russell.

ASSPCA executive director Kurt J. Swanson thanked Tracy Conrad for hosting the event at The Willows Historic Palm Springs Inn.

Guest Kay Hazen had the last word by saying, "It was a doggone purrfect party."

For information on pet adoption and services, call 343-3477.

■ **PS: Jeannette Banoczi**, president of the Coachella Valley Symphony and founder of its Buddy Rogers Youth Symphony, was recently honored with conductor Christian Chalfour by Indian Wells City Council. The symphony has many delightful free or nearly-so programs and events for adults and children. To be on its mailing, call 345-4861.

■ El Nino caught up with the social circuit this week. The dedication of Angel View Crippled Children's Bob and Dolores Hoop House was postponed due to Tuesday's storm.

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