

Life In The Fast Lane



L don't know, maybe it's a mysterious magnetic force that pulls me, or maybe it's pure unbridled hedonism, or maybe it's just that I don't like to stay home with my dog, Pip, but I've sure been to my share of parties since we last communicated. Grab a champagne, and come along for some fun.

Jules Feiler threw a swell little cocktail party for model/actress, Luz Whitney, and her boyfriend, "Iron" Mike Tyson, at Merchant's in New York City. The bash was to celebrate Ms. Whitney's first feature film role in Australian director Allison G. Thompson's next film, "Simon's Curse." My favorite Aussie of all time, "New York Post" Columnist Steve Dunleavy, was on hand to hoist a few and take a close look at Luz's red-hot new pictorial in "King Magazine." Mike and I talked about parenthood, travel, religion, television--everything but boxing.

I partied with a couple of tremendous musicians--Jimmy Webb after his opening at Feinstein's at the Regency, and jazz and singing sensation Peter Cincotti, who drew a crowd to the Oak Room at the Algonquin that included Tony Bennett and legendary record producer, Phil Ramone. Music was in the air at the elegant birthday bash Alex Hitz threw at The SOHO Club for my pal, the Leading Hotels of the World PR Queen, Karon Cullen. Helping to celebrate was another beautiful Leading Hotels executive, Claudia Kozma. So much beauty, I was a happy guy that night.

Down on my beloved island of St.Lucia, Nick and Karolin Troubetzkoy of

the Anse Chastanet Hotel, organized a modest little dinner on the beach for about a hundred hotel guests and friends and had executive chef Jon Bentham prepare a gala seven course meal. That night was a warm up for my return in the morning to the U.S. and the challenging, and health-defying responsibilities as a judge in the spectacular "Philadelphia Magazine Philly Cooks" awards. I sampled sixteen dishes and collapsed into the arms of the chefs from The Walnut College Restaurant School--who carried food in and judges out.

All of that eating, of course, was to prepare me for the giant Choucroute party at Brasserie Les Halles. The restaurant's suave owner, Philippe Lajaunie, was installing some food world notables into his "Choucroute Hall of Fame." My friend, and Food Network colleague, David Rosengarten was inducted, Pete Rose got no votes. Les Halles Chef-At-Large and best-selling author Tony Bourdain and dance great David Parsons were part of a group that feasted on the venerable Alsatian dish, drank the wines of Pierre Trimbach, and woke up the next morning proclaiming sauerkraut "soul food."

Ok, so the dog's been home alone, but the doggie bag from Les Halles made up for a lot of Pip's lonely nights. Maybe next time I'll concentrate on the domestic side of my existence, er...maybe not.

It's been life in the fast lane, but that's why they make fast lanes. See you soon. BT



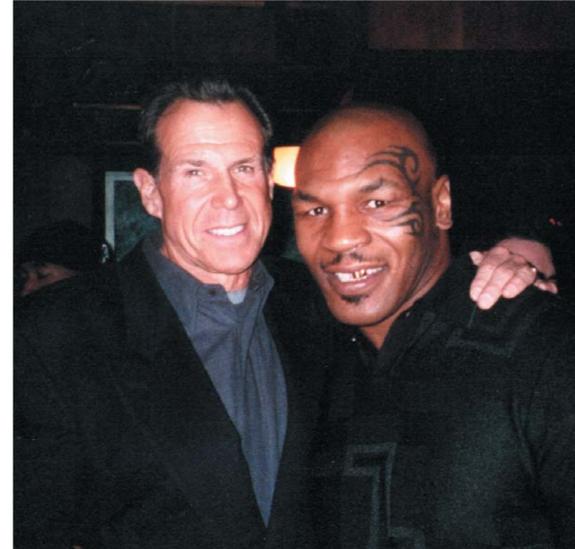
Pitil Ramone, Peter Cincotti, and Tony Bennett



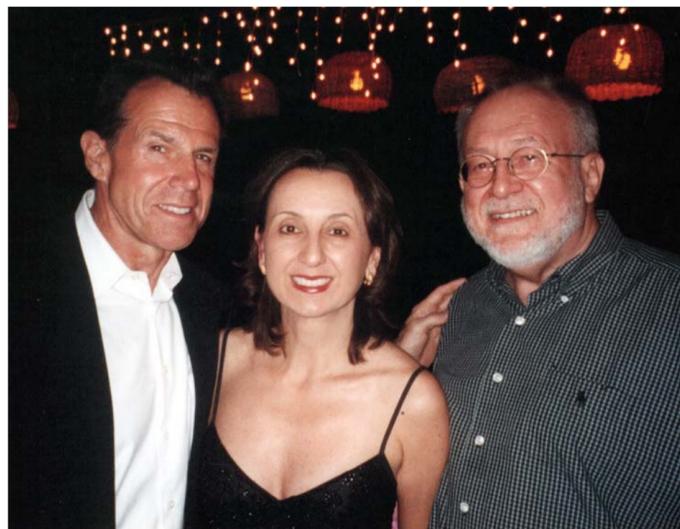
(L) Claudia Kozma (R) Karon Cullen



(L) David Parsons, Tony Bourdain, and David Rosengarten



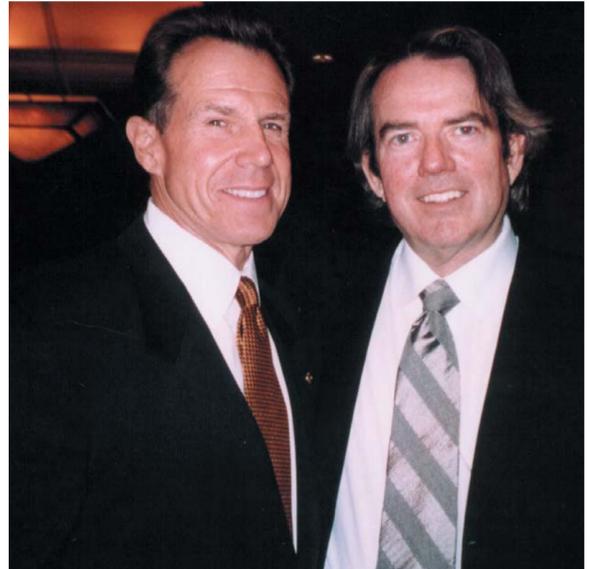
Bill Boggs and Mike Tyson



Karolin and Nick Troubetzkoy



(L) Luz Whitney, Steve Dunleavy, and Allison G. Thompson



Bill Boggs and songwriter/singer Jimmy Webb



Chefs Galorie in Philadelphia